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HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE
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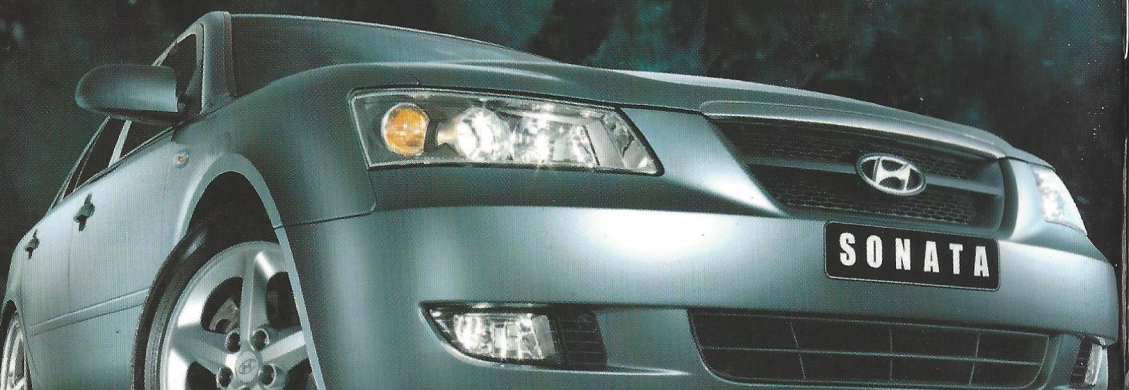

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HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE **ROUND ONE** SEASON 2005-06

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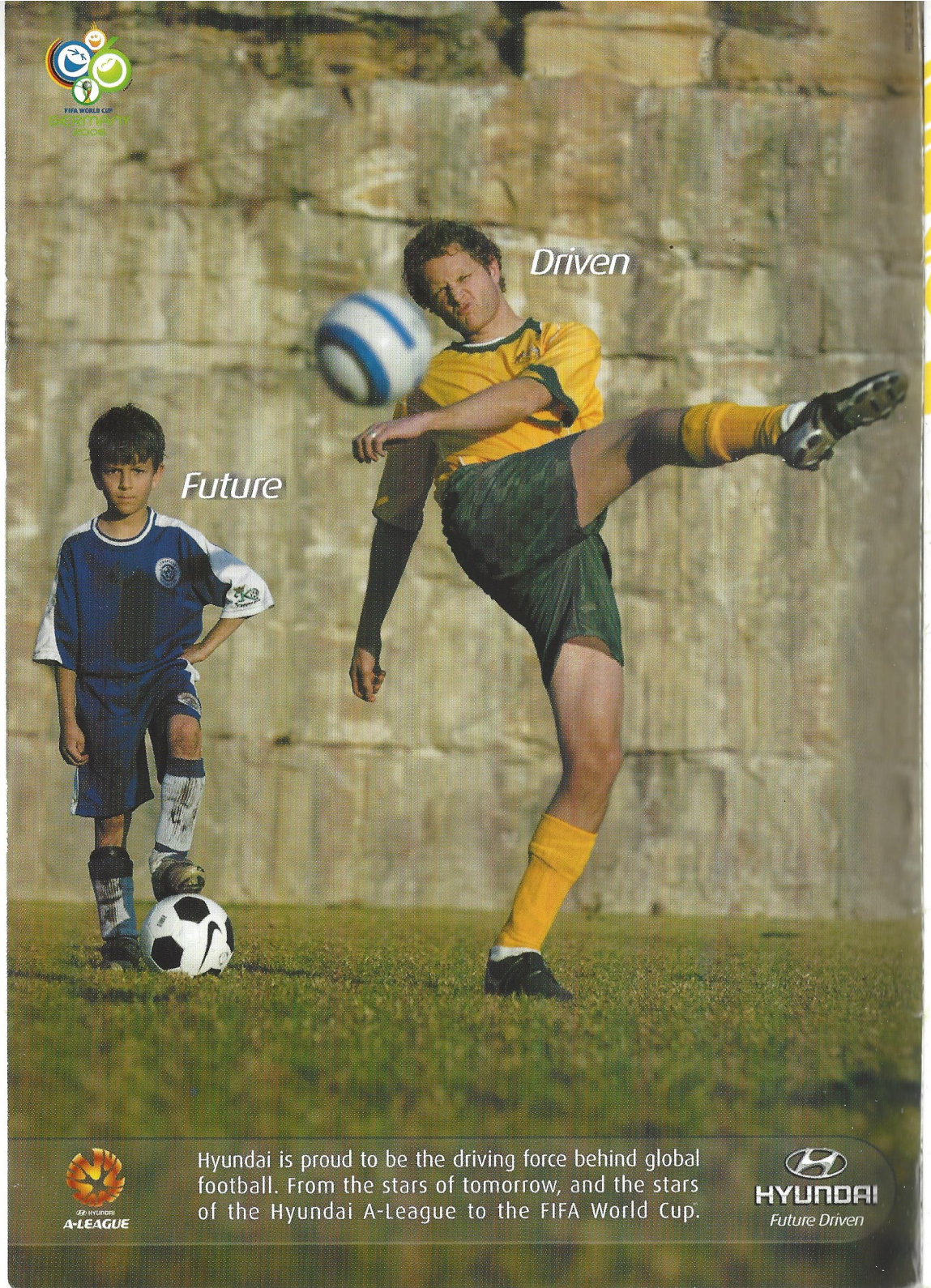
PERTH GLORY
VS
CENTRAL COAST MARINERS

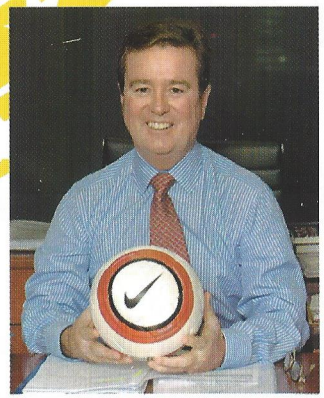
Members Equity Stadium, August 26



Hyundai is proud to be the driving force behind global football. From the stars of tomorrow, and the stars of the Hyundai A-League to the FIFA World Cup.

HYUNDAI
Future Driven

WELCOME



On behalf of Chairman Mr Frank Lowy and the Board of Football Federation Australia I would like to welcome you to the opening round of the Hyundai A-League.

This is a particularly exciting time for football in Australia and I thank you for taking in this experience of "New Football".

With the creation of eight new clubs and the one-team-per-city concept, there will be some fierce rivalries developed on the field, while off the field we will work together to make the Hyundai A-League a success.

The return home of some of our favourite sons to play in this competition is an enormous boost and we also have some players from overseas who have come here to give us a truly international flavour.

We are privileged to have a range of fantastic companies assisting us in getting the Hyundai A-League off the ground and I'd like to say thank you to all of our partners including Hyundai, the naming rights partner of the league, and also Qantas, Telstra, PowerAde, Reebok and our broadcasters, Fox Sports and Sky Sports New Zealand.

There has been a lot of work done to create this competition, but it is only with your support that it can be a success.

I'd like to wish all the clubs the best of luck throughout the season and of course we all look forward to September and November when the Qantas Socceroos play off for a spot in the World Cup.

Best Regards

John O'Neill

JOHN O'NEILL
CEO
Football Federation Australia

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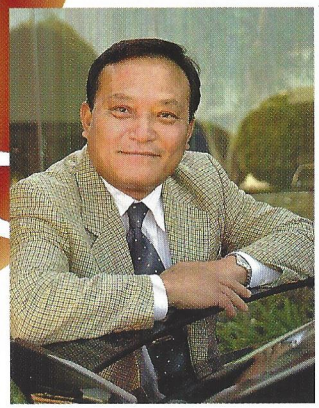
FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

WELCOME



Welcome and thank you for attending this first-round match in the Hyundai A-League's inaugural season.

Today we celebrate the birth of New Football in Australia and, as inaugural naming rights sponsor, we at Hyundai feel like a proud and excited new parent.

We are thrilled to support Football Federation Australia in its great adventure to give the World Game the presence it deserves in this great sporting nation.

FFA's pursuit of excellence aligns with that of Hyundai Motor Company in Australia. We each offer you a great product: FFA presents the sublime skill and excitement of football played at a higher level than ever before in an Australian national competition.

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Hyundai is a global friend and fan of football. Its success in Australia, New Zealand, North America and India helps spread football fever in these frontiers, supporting Football competitions there and in many of the other 190 countries Hyundai Motor is active.

Hyundai's A-League support is a vital next step and adds to Hyundai Motor Company's now six-year partnership with FIFA which includes the memorable 2002 World Cup in Korea/Japan, UEFA 2004 in Portugal, next year's World Cup in Germany and the next two World Cups thereafter.

At home in Korea, Hyundai fields its own team in the K-League and a son of the Hyundai group founder is the FIFA vice-president and Korea Football Association chairman.

We thank FFA chairman Frank Lowy, CEO John O'Neill and their team for their hard work in bringing the Hyundai A-League to fruition.

Again, thank you ... and enjoy !

MR B. G. LEE
CEO, *Hyundai Motor Co Australia*

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

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HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

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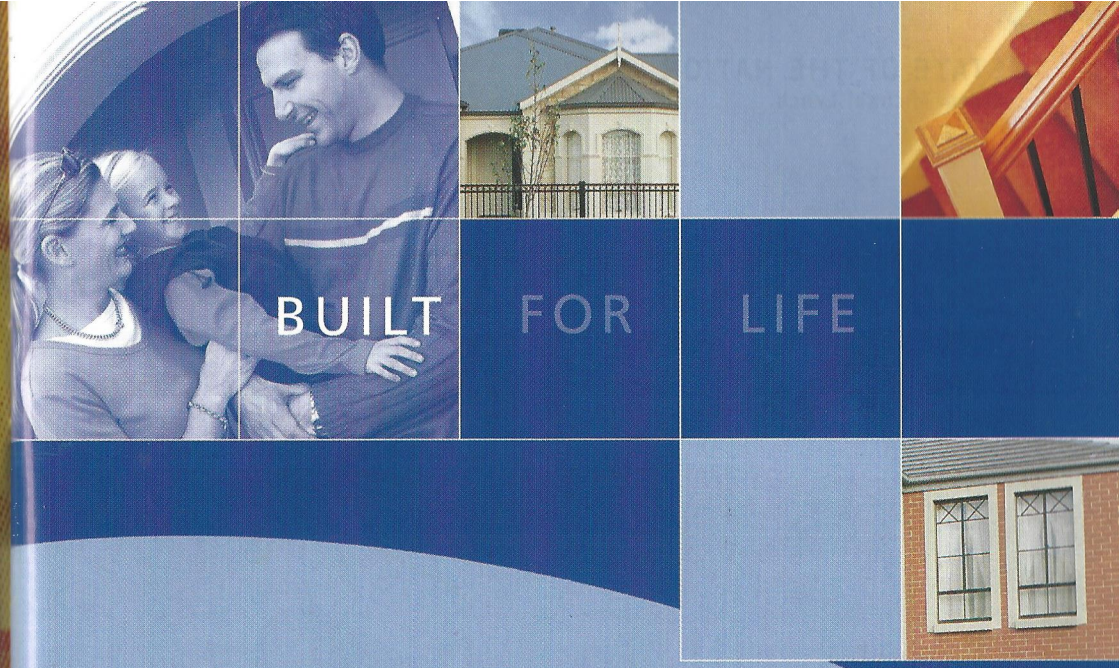

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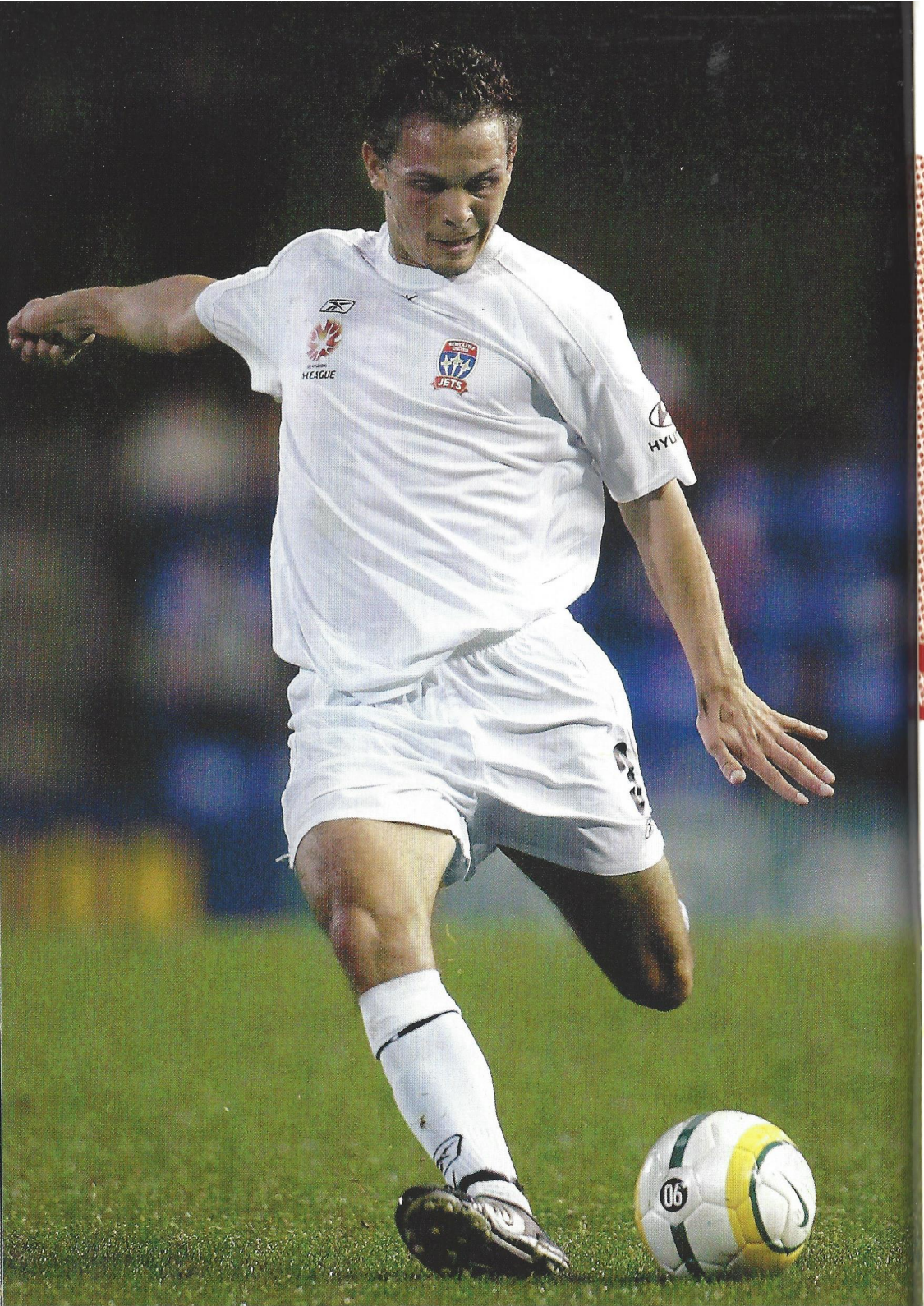
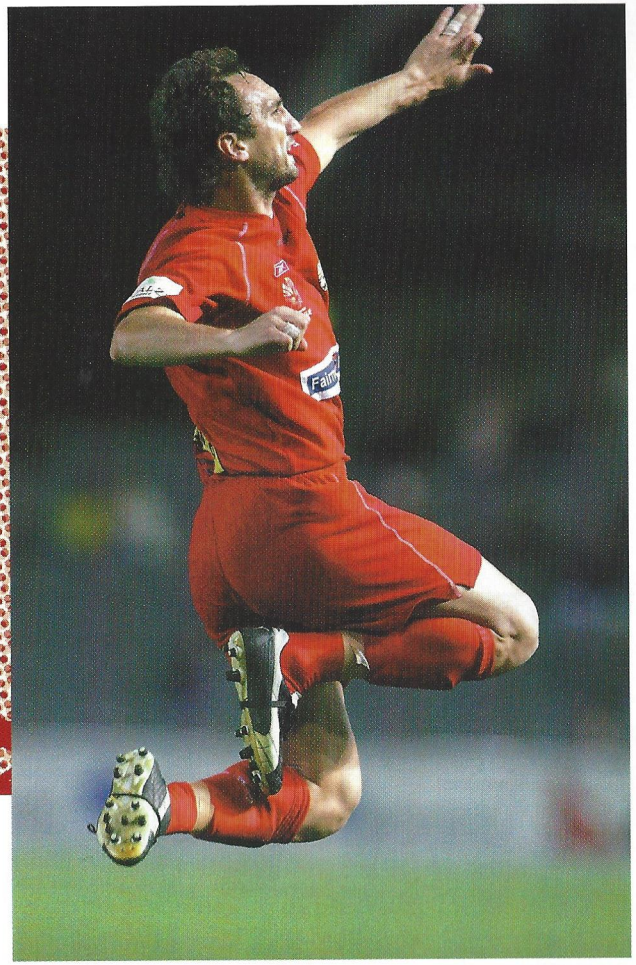
WORDS: Michael Lynch

START YOUR ENGINES

Eight teams. One-hundred and sixty players. One trophy. The race for the inaugural Hyundai A-League title starts now.





Previous page (left to right): Jade North, David Tarka, Archie Thompson, Travis Dodd, Andre Gumprecht, Noah Hickey, Michael Baird, Mark Rudan.

This page: The versatility and class of Socceroo Jade North (opposite page) make him a key man in the Newcastle Jets' back line.
Adelaide United's Michael Valkanis was on target in the Pre-Season Cup, finding the back of the net twice.

All the practice and preparation, the trials and try-outs, have now been completed. Coaches, managers, chairmen and boards of directors have made their decisions on player rosters and will have to live or die by their their judgements for the next seven months.

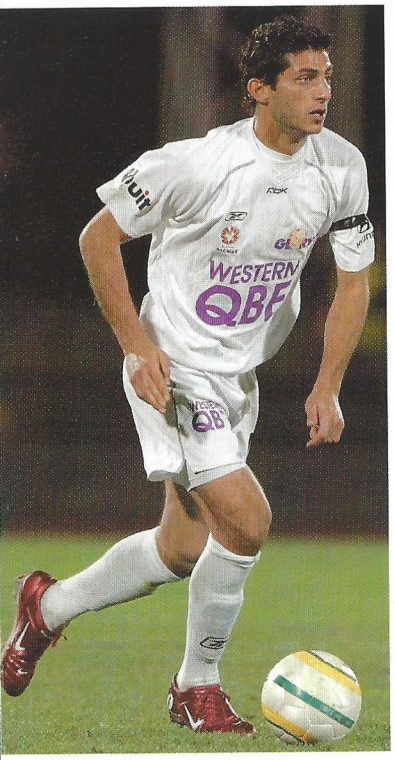
This weekend is where it all gets real, with eight clubs playing for championship points in a competition – the Hyundai A-League – which everyone in the game hopes and believes will usher in a new era for football in this country.

Sydney FC stole the plaudits in the early warm-up games, winning the Oceania Club Championship and gaining the right to represent not just the region, but the new league, in the Club World Championship in Tokyo in December.

Their NSW rivals the Central Coast Mariners did the same in Football Federation Australia's Pre-Season Cup, taking the honours in front of their own fans in Gosford last Saturday night.

But those triumphs count for nothing now. The past is truly another country, and the Hyundai A-League is a completely different environment. The intensity of the contest and the pace of the game is sure to lift to another level compared to that which applied in the pre-season exercises.

One swallow doesn't make a summer, and plenty of teams have recovered from poor starts to end their campaigns on a triumphant note. Nonetheless, no team – especially those



playing at home – will be pleased with anything less than a win in round one.

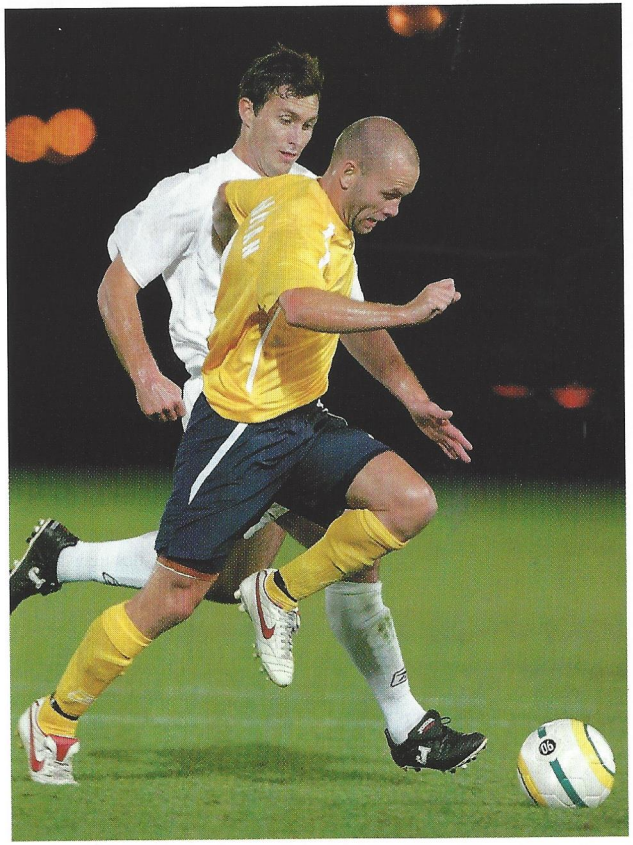
Similarly, the player recruits who have generated most of the Hyundai A-League's pre-season publicity will be anxious to begin as they mean to carry on – in high-profile style.

Much of the focus will be on Sydney FC's ex-Manchester United treble-winner Dwight Yorke, who comes up against Melbourne's main man, ex-Socceroo captain Kevin Muscat, in the opening fixture.

But plenty of eyes will swivel west, to see what sort of an impact another ex-Premier League striker Brian Deane makes with Perth Glory, while New Zealand supporters will be hoping that the English Premier League and lower division experience boasted by a swag of their recruits will make all the difference to the New Zealand Knights.

FFA has created a competition which has been successful in attracting quality players: Socceroos like David Zdrilic, Archie Thompson, Simon Colosimo and Kevin Muscat, and players such as Melbourne's Geoffrey Claeys and Richard Kitzbichler, Adelaide's Qu Shengqing and Queensland's Tae-Yong Shin who have played, respectively, for Belgium, Austria, China and South Korea.

They, along with the best and



This page: Perth's Simon Colosimo (above) is keen to prove to new national coach Guus Hiddink that he deserves to be representing his country.
German-born Andre Gumprecht (right) covers most of the park for the Central Coast Mariners, and was a big part of their victory in the Pre-Season Cup.

Opposite page: Former South Korean international Tae-Yong Shin (top) is a real threat from set pieces for the Queensland Roar. New Zealand's John Tambouras (bottom) brings plenty of experience to the Knights' backline.

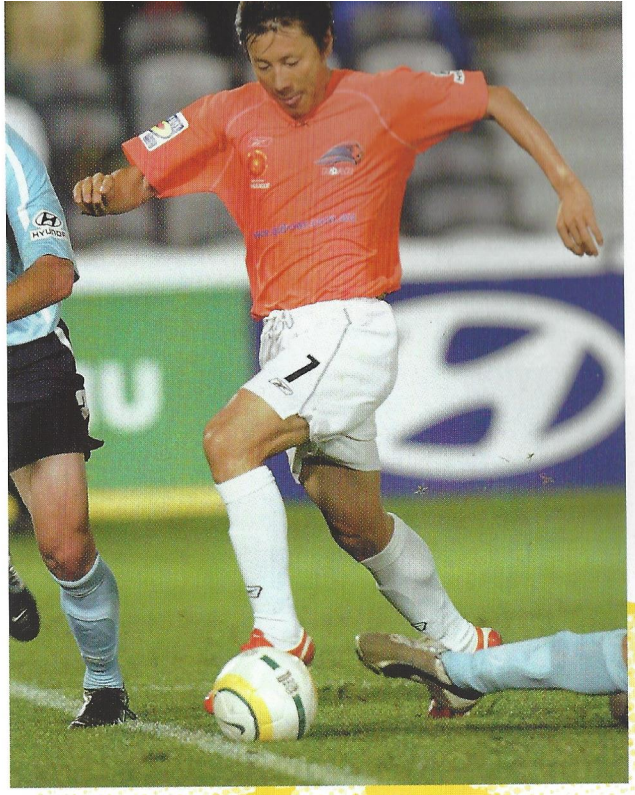
brightest talents from Australia, will provide a quality contest week-in and week-out: the supporters of the sport who have waited patiently down the decades to be given a product which meets their demands, deserve nothing less.

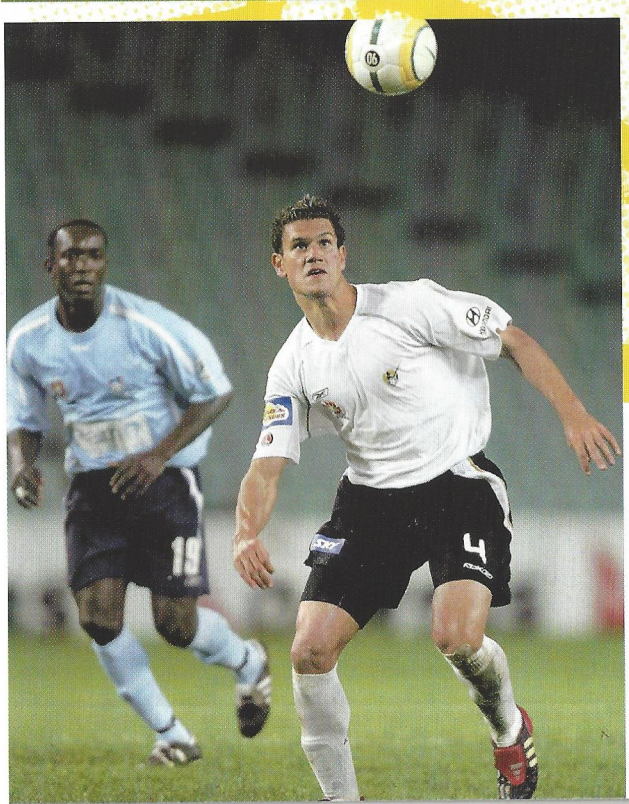
Friday, 26 August
NEWCASTLE JETS FC vs ADELAIDE UNITED FC
Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle
The action gets underway on Friday night, with the Newcastle Jets entertaining Adelaide City at Energy Australia stadium. These two sides met in the Pre-Season Cup when they shared a goal apiece in a 1-1 draw at Hindmarsh, Newcastle midfielder Richard Johnson's equaliser cancelling out Adelaide skipper Ross Aloisi's opener.

Neither side made it out of their group in the pre-season Cup – Newcastle drawing at home to Melbourne and losing in Perth, while Adelaide shared the spoils with Perth (2-2) in the South Australian capital before grinding out a scoreless draw in Victoria.

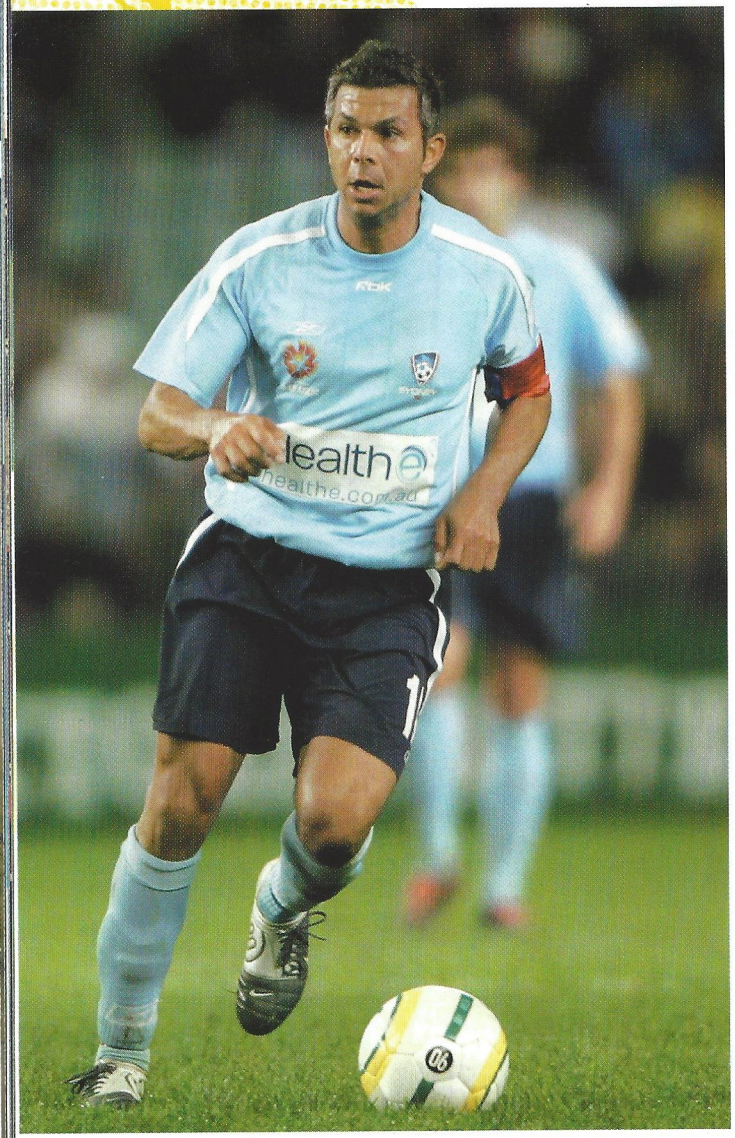
Newcastle might have more improvement in them, given they were lacking the services of top strike Ante Milicic throughout the pre-season. If the Socceroo front-man is available, his sharpness will make all the difference to a solid and experienced Jets team who will be anxious to get off to a flying start at home.

Friday, 26 August
PERTH GLORY FC vs CENTRAL COAST MARINERS FC
Members Equity Stadium, Perth
On the same night Perth Glory and the Central Coast Mariners shape up for their second





Age against youth: This weekend will likely see a match-up between Sydney FC veteran Steve Corica (below) and Melbourne Victory up-and-comer Kristian Sarkies (opposite page).



encounter in six days, the pair having contested the Pre-Season Cup final the previous Saturday evening.

The Mariners took the prize on that occasion thanks to Stewart Petrie's 38th-minute goal, but will be sweating on the fitness of key striker Nick Mrdja, who limped out of the match early and had to have a precautionary MRI scan earlier this week.

There is one huge difference this time round: the clash will be at the Glory's Members Equity Stadium in front of their vociferous West Australian fans, and the Glory will be able to field influential striker Bobby Despotovski and midfielder Steve McMahon junior, both of whom were suspended from the final. Glory will also hope to use their big-name English signing Brian Deane, who recently arrived in the country.

Sunday, 28 August
QUEENSLAND ROAR FC
vs NEW ZEALAND KNIGHTS FC
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

On Sunday Queensland Roar, a side which has impressed many during the pre-season competition with their pacy, fluid football, will look to get off to a flying start at home to the New Zealand Knights, a team whose pre-season performances have left many pundits predicting they will finish nearer the bottom than the top.

The Roar certainly took the Knights apart when they met in Auckland last month, winning 5-0. But both coaches, the Roar's Miron Bleiberg and the New Zealander's John Adshead, have counselled against reading too much into one result given that it was essentially a practice match where players and systems were being looked at and several players were underdone or not at full fitness.

The Roar hope that players such as Josh McCloughan and Matt McKay should have recovered in time for the big kick-off, although striker Michael Baird is suspended and will miss the first match.

The Knights are happy to be written off as outsiders by the Australians, says chief executive Guy Hedderwick.

"I think we've recruited very well. I see the Aussies have pegged us to do badly in the competition, but I think we'll surprise a few. Pre-season's a tough time for any player because he's getting his fitness work done and all that kind of thing, But I wouldn't say ours are frustrated. They are just chomping at the bit to go."

Sunday, 28 August
SYDNEY FC
vs MELBOURNE VICTORY FC
Aussie Stadium, Sydney

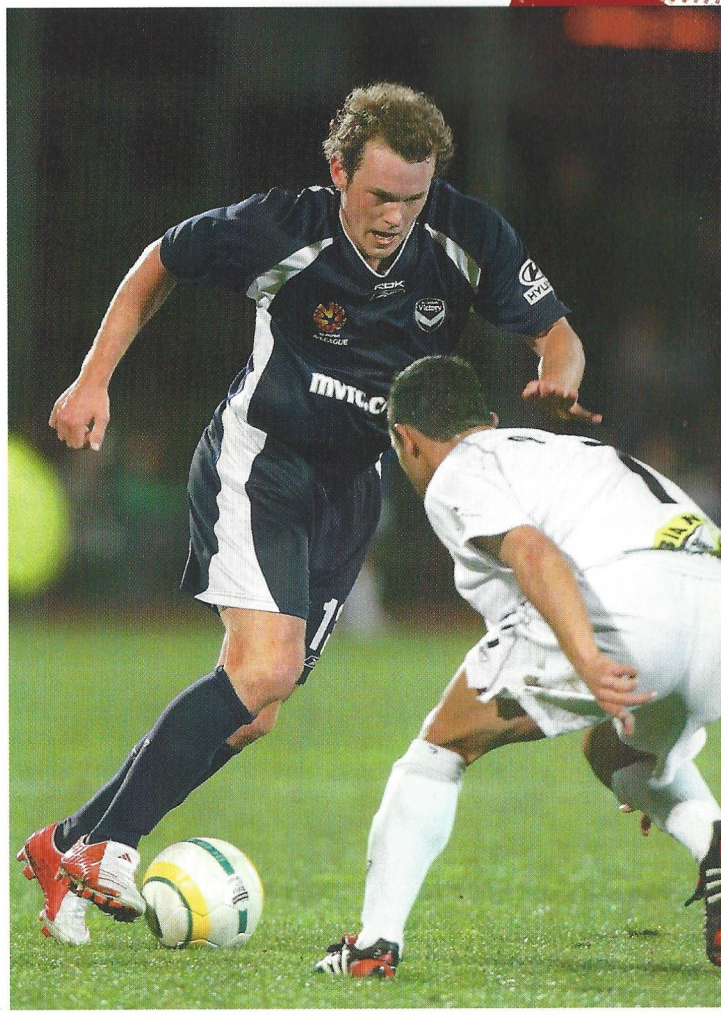
The round will be completed by the clash of the two teams many of the experts predict will vie for inaugural championship honours, Sydney FC and Melbourne Victory at Aussie Stadium in the Harbour City.

Sydney have the score on the board through their Club World Championship win, but failed to make the Pre-Season Cup final, having lost their long unbeaten run to a last-gasp Perth Glory goal in the semi-final, also played in Sydney.

Nevertheless they were impressive enough in the lead-up, having beaten eventual winners Central Coast and New Zealand and drawn with Queensland in the group stages.

Melbourne had looked very solid in their earlier matches, beating Perth and drawing with Newcastle and Adelaide, conceding only one goal in the process, during the pre-season competition's group phase.

However they were unhinged 3-1 at home by the Mariners in the semi-final, although coach Ernie Merrick says he has learned well from the tactical lessons of that defeat.



The clash between mercurial striker Dwight Yorke and Victory's tough-as-teak former Socceroo defender Kevin Muscat should whet the appetite, but there are plenty of other players on both sides who are more than capable of stealing the show.

Sydney's newly called-up Socceroo front-man Saso Petrovkski, having caught Guus Hiddink's eye, will be keen to stay in the spotlight. Melbourne's ultra-fast striker Archie Thompson, who missed the Socceroos Dutch training camp because his wife was having a baby, will be determined to prove to Hiddink's Australian-based assistants Graham Arnold and Ron Smith that he deserves to retain his hard-won place in the Australian squad as the World Cup qualifiers loom.

Michael Lynch is the chief football writer for The Age *in Melbourne.*

SLATER SAYS
WITH ROBBIE SLATER

TIME TO SHINE

Each week former Socceroo Robbie Slater will give you the low-down on the Hyundai A-League. As the season kicks off, he runs the rule over each of the teams.

The wait's over, and the red carpet is out for the inaugural Hyundai A-League. Australia's new competition has been eagerly anticipated since the announcement almost 18 months ago.We have had the World Club Championship and the pre-season tournement where rivalries have been cemented, but now it's time for the real thing, four massive games across the country where points are at stake.

In the lead up, Sydney FC has been dubbed Australia's "glamour club". And, as much as it might dislike the tag, its performances and signings to date have lived-up to it. Former Manchester United star Dwight Yorke is the Hyundai A-League's major signing and I think that people all over the country will flock to see him, while the signings of David Zdrilic, Steve Corica and Ufuk Talay all represent significant coups. There are a number of challengers, but Sydney will start the season as favourites.

Like Sydney, Melbourne Victory have recruited a number of players from overseas, including returning Socceroos Kevin Muscat and Archie Thompson.

The Central Coast Mariners have signalled intent with their appearance in the World Club Championship Final and by winning the Pre-Season Cup. Performances from Nick Mrdja and co on the field, and the vocal "Marinators" in the stands, have shown a sign of what we can expect this season. The Mariners' on-field performances should come as no surprise given the experience of managers Lawrie McKinna and ex-Rangers legend Ian Ferguson.

In recent times, Perth Glory has been the benchmark in Australia and with a host of new talent, including Liverpool legend Steve McMahon at the helm, Perth look very strong. With the vastly experienced Brian Deane leading from the front and featuring Socceroo Simon Colosimo in midfield, the Glory should be in the mix at the end.

One team that has received a load of positive press is the Queensland Roar. Led by Miron Bleiberg, this dynamic, young and exciting team looks ready to entertain. With talented young players like Jonti Richter and Michael Baird the hype is unsurprising.

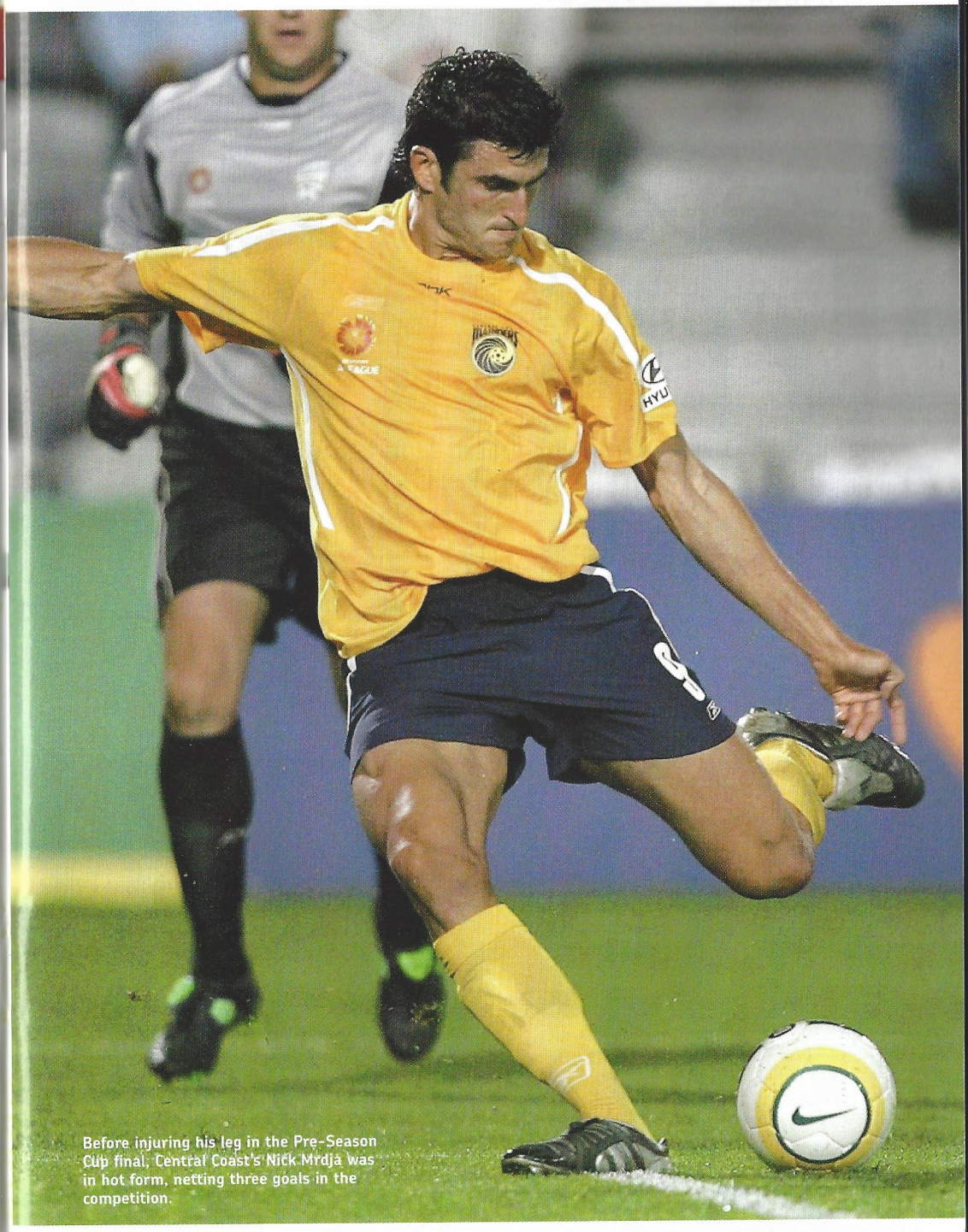
Adelaide United have lost their talismanic captain Aurelio Vidmar, who retired somewhat surprisingly only three weeks from the kick-off. His absence will put pressure on the experienced Carl Veart and Ross Aloisi to fill that void. Adelaide do have one of the league's star signings with Chinese striker Qu Shengqing expected to set the magnificent Hindmarsh Stadium alight. Adelaide have been, like Perth, one of the success stories in Australian football, and I expect that to continue.

One team that has been quiet in the pre-season is the Newcastle Jets. The Jets have been hampered by injuries to big players, namely Ante Milicic and Andrew Durante. This said, the signing of ex-Socceroo Ned Zelic signals Newcastle's ambition; while in Ante Milicic, it has a potential golden boot winner.

The New Zealand Knights have endured a tough pre-season tournament, but with the leadership of Danny Hay and the pace of Noah Hickey I think the Knights will surprise a lot of people, especially on their own turf. They have a good blend of local talent and experienced players from overseas and will be a formidable opponent.

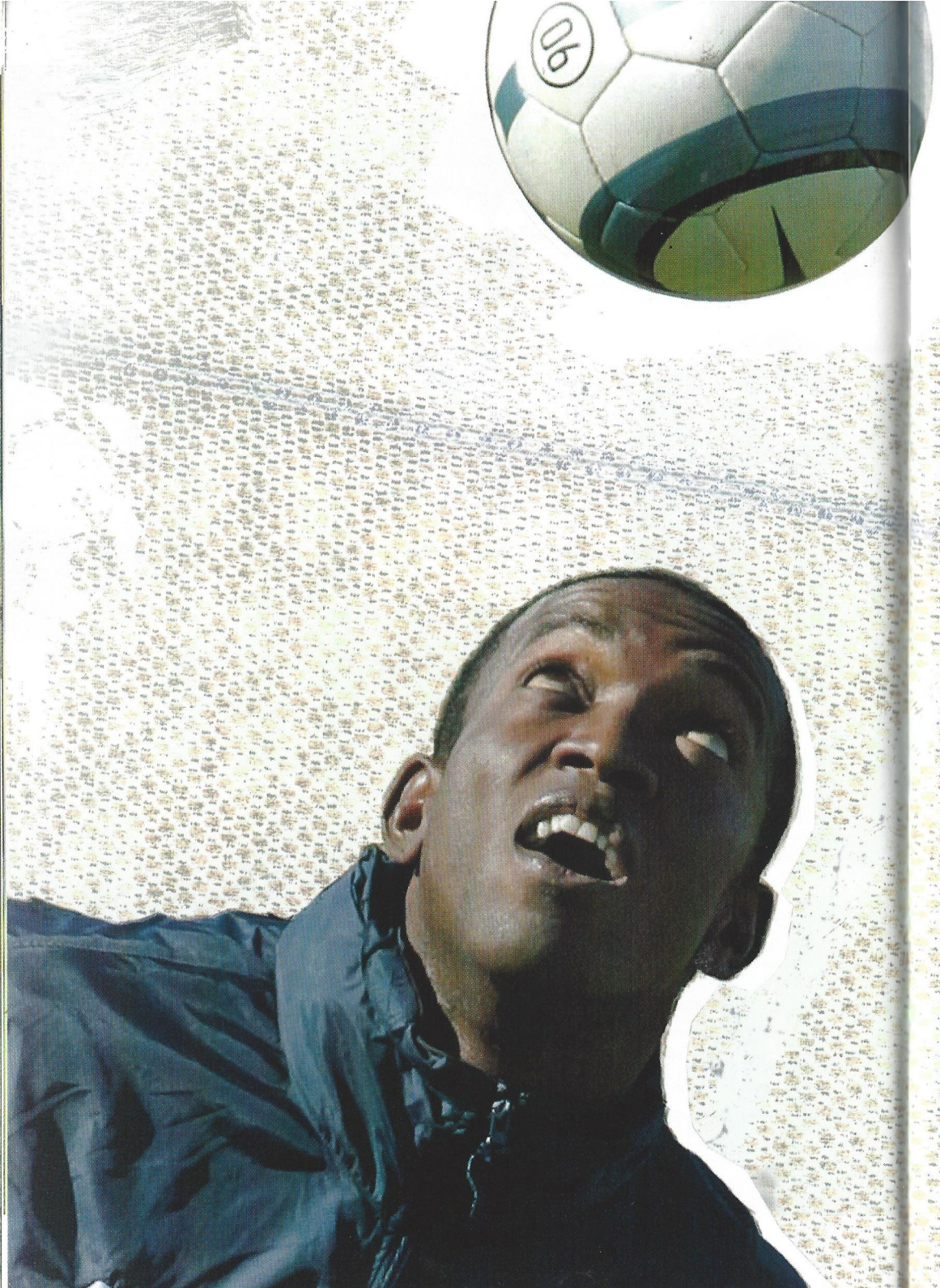
The fact that you're reading this article means you're part of Australia's football revolution. The time has come – the focus has shifted from the administrators and is firmly on the players and supporters. This league can only go as far as those who support it. They have built it, now you must come. And with your help we can make sure that this is football, but not as you've known it. See you next week.

Former Socceroo Robbie Slater is chief football analyst for Fox Sports and the Hyundai ambassador for football in Australia.



Before injuring his leg in the Pre-Season Cup final, Central Coast's Nick Mrdja was in hot form, netting three goals in the competition.

WORDS: Michael Lynch



CONFIDENCE MAN

As the highest-profile recruit to the Hyundai A-League, Sydney FC's Dwight Yorke knows he has a lot to live up to. Luckily, he's got the skill and the assurance to deliver.

With his infectious grin, smiling eyes, silky skills and big-time reputation, Dwight Yorke is the highest profile, most visible recruit to Australia's new Hyundai A-League, bar none. And in Sydney FC, the league's self-proclaimed "glamour club", it would seem that the former Aston Villa and Manchester United star has found his pefect football match.

The 33-year-old Trinidad and Tobago international is a Champions League winner with Manchester United and a player who proved himself one of the Premier League's deadliest hitmen for more than a decade, initially with Villa, most productively with United, and then latterly with Blackburn and Birmingham.

The ambitious Sydney, which will be Oceania's representative in the Club World Championship in Tokyo at the end of this year, has signed Yorke for the contribution he can make on the pitch.

But it would be naïve to ignore the impact the man can have in marketing and selling not just Sydney FC, but the Hyundai A-League as a whole.

He is, after all, a familiar figure from Foxtel's Premiership coverage, and the cachet of having a player who has starred for the biggest club in world football should surely open doors not just with sponsors and investors, but attract a new and curious group of fans to the game.

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Yorke, a man from a large family of humble Carribbean origins, has it all thanks to his lengthy career as a high-rolling Premiership star. When his time with the big boys was coming to an end he was not short of offers, from other English teams and from cashed-up clubs in football's developing world who would have paid, by Australian standards, a king's ransom to have him on their roster.

Yorke could have gone anywhere, with clubs in Asia and the Middle East chasing him with lucrative offers. But the striker, who knew Sydney from previous holiday visits with his former Villa and Manchester United teammate Mark Bosnich, opted to come Down Under to be a pioneer in the Frank Lowy-led football revolution. Hopefully he can help football finally earn the place it deserves as one of Australia's major sports.

He has a task in front of him – for 40 years the game has promised to break into the mainstream without ever quite succeeding – but Yorke's track record of success and his willingness to tackle the challenge augur well not just for his prospects, but also his club's and the league in general.

There are, of course, the sceptics, those who question why a player with his pedigree in the game has chosen to come to the developing football world of Australia rather than set himself tougher goals in the final years of his career.

There are, inevitably, those who will point to his marquee status and high salary, and wonder whether he will be committed to giving his all.

Yorke, a man from a large family of humble Carribbean origins, has it all thanks to his lengthy career as a high-rolling Premiership star.

QUICK HITS

Dwight Yorke

CLUB: Sydney FC

POSITION: Striker

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Aston Villa, Manchester United, Blackburn, Birmingham

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Premier League winner, Champions League winner, FA Cup winner, seventh-highest scorer in Premier League history.

Yorke scores past Chris Kirkland during another Manchester United win over Coventry City in 2001.

Yorke (right) shares a joke with coach Pierre Littbarski while signing his contract with Sydney FC.

pointing out that his stay at his last Premier League club, Birmingham, was not always a happy one.

But that discounts the professional pride that top players like Yorke posess, and his desire to ensure that his finale in top flight football will be remembered for all the right reasons.

"This is an exciting period of my career as I am coming to a new country, a country I honestly love, and I am part of something brand new," Yorke says. "The Premiership has been a huge part of my life, but I am looking forward with excitement. I have come to Sydney because there is a buzz about the football club and there is a hunger to do well and win trophies. As a player, there is nothing better than playing in a successful team and I have had that opportunity at Manchester United. I get that feeling about Sydney FC.

"I still have that competitive hunger and I have not come here to waste anybody's time. I have always strived to give my very best on the football field. I understand there will be extra spotlight and responsibility as a marquee player, but I am not interested in being elevated above my teammates."

Yorke also wants to act as a mentor to Sydney's developing players who aspire to follow in his footsteps overseas.

"I want to do as much as I can to help share the experiences I have learned from my career and work with the younger players to help them improve," he says.

Yorke has had no qualms about leaving himself a hostage to fortune, declaring that he is aiming to average a goal every two games – at least 10 in a total of 21 home and away matches.

"I always set myself for double-figures. Once you get to double-figures, that is successful. I expect to be up there with the top goalscorers in the country. I'm expecting to be among the front-runners for the player of the year award. That's a goal for me. And I'm expecting us to win the league."

Here's hoping his confidence is infectious.

Michael Lynch is chief football writer with The Age *in Melbourne.*

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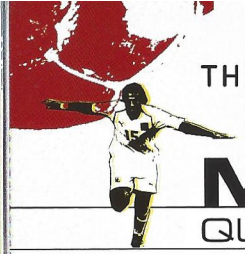


THE BOY'S A BIT SPECIAL

MICHAEL BAIRD

QUEENSLAND ROAR

AGE: 22 **POSITION:** Striker

WORDS: Rob Black

One of the highlights of joining Queensland Roar for former Young Socceroo Michael Baird was the thought of running out onto Suncorp Stadium in front of his hometown crowd. Unfortunately for the dynamic young striker, he's suspended for the first round match against the New Zealand Knights, and won't get another shot until Round 4 versus Melbourne Victory.

"I would have just loved to be out there, but I guess I'll have to wait a little longer," Baird said. "I was dying to get on Suncorp, it's just such a great stadium. Even our first training run there was pretty exciting for all the guys.

"Imagine playing in such a great stadium in front of a big crowd. Football is going to go places and it will be just great to be part of it – especially in front of my home fans. It's going to be hard (to miss the first game) but I'll just have to wait, I guess."

Baird was suspended following his send-off in the World Club Championship qualifier versus Sydney FC in May.

He gets his chance of a Hyundai A-League debut next week against Adelaide United, albeit on foreign territory at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Born and bred in Queensland, Baird is one of seven players the Roar signed from the 2003 Young Socceroos World Youth Cup squad. Roar coach Miron Bleiberg brought in a raft of young talent when he signed Baird, Alex Brosque, Jonathan Richter, Massimo Murdocca, Matt McKay, Spase Dilevski and Tom Willis.

Baird said the Young Socceroos were together for quite a while, including a solid four-month stint in tournaments and training camps in Korea, Sydney, Brisbane and the United Arab Emirates.

"It was a pretty long haul, but we sure got to know each other as teammates and that has definitely helped when we all signed for the Roar," Baird said.

National youth team coach Ange Postecoglou said that squad of 20 from the 2003 World Youth Cup campaign were the most skilled group of footballers he has coached.

"We beat Brazil and topped our group and were a bit unlucky to go out of the World Youth Cup in the second round," Postecoglou said.

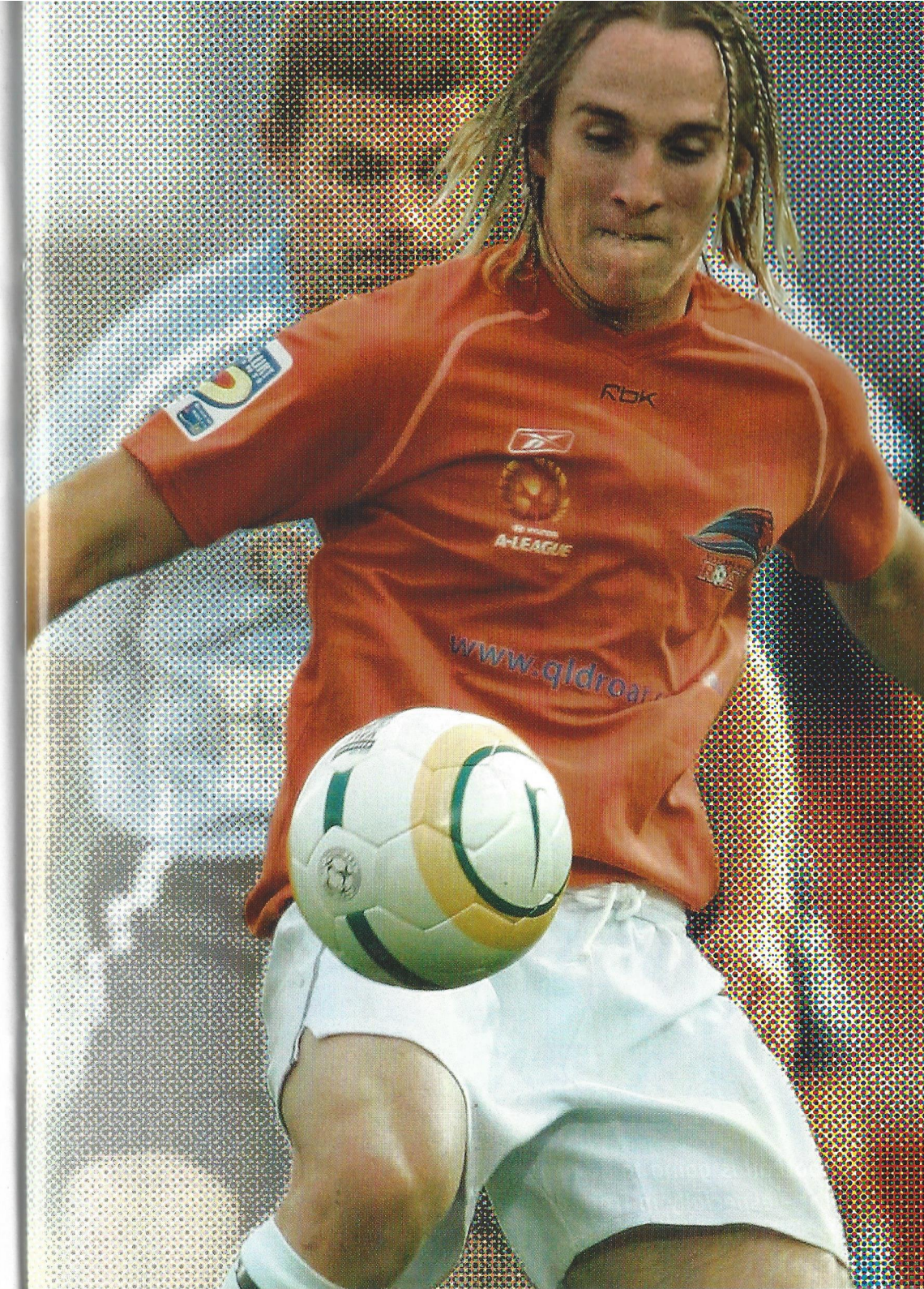
"The home side, the UAE (United Arab Emirates), beat us in the last minute in a game we really should have won. They (the Young Socceroos) were the most talented group I've had since I started coaching."

And Postecoglou was glowing in his praise of Baird, who the Aussie coach said was "a bit rough around the edges" when he first came to Melbourne to play for South Melbourne.

"Danny Wright, another Queenslander, signed 'Bairdie' at South (Melbourne) and he was technically a bit behind some of the other guys," Postecoglou said.

"But I could see he was keen to give his all every game and work very hard in training. All through the (2003 World Youth Cup) campaign he improved noticeably, both technically and his positional sense."

Postecoglou said he was pleased the A-League clubs had taken on board his proposal for the the clubs to take on a number of young Australian players in their squads.



"I suppose both Victory (Melbourne) and Queensland (Roar) have embraced it the most, valuing these young players now and in the future," he said.

"There were a lot of players who may not have gone overseas if there was a professional league here at home. Now there is, we should see more of our young talent stay in Australia and mature as a group."

Along with Royce Brownlie, who at 26 is the veteran of the strike force at the Roar, Baird, Richter and Brosque provide plenty of pacey and powerful frontline options for Bleiberg.

Baird played all his junior football in Brisbane and debuted in the old National Soccer League as a teenager with the Brisbane Strikers before moving to South Melbourne and then Sydney Olympic.

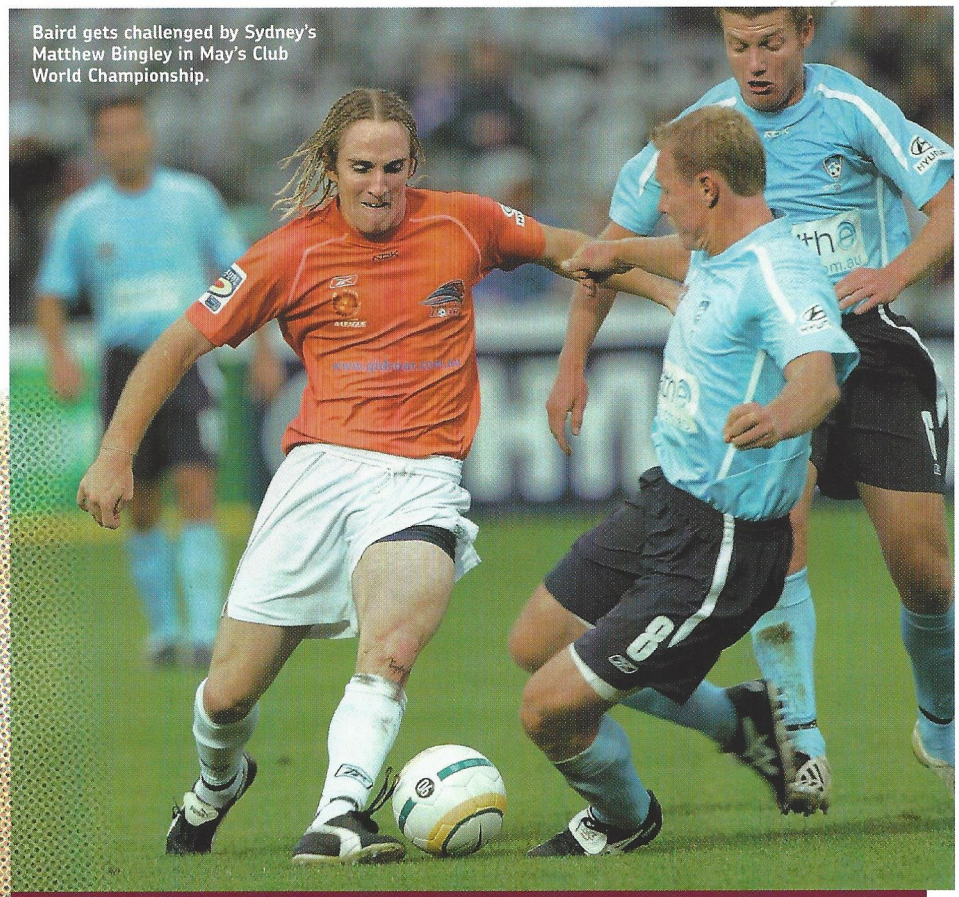
Following the demise of the old NSL, Baird had a season with Bonnyrigg in the NSW State League before jumping at the offer to return to Queensland with the Roar.

"Both the Cental Coast Mariners and the Queensland Roar spoke to me on the same day, while I was still in Sydney," he said.

"But it was never going to be anything else than Queensland for me. I knew Miron and knew he was a good coach, and the other guys who were siging with the Roar.

"Plus the chance to play at Suncorp as my home ground – it was never a choice really."

Rob Black writes for The Courier Mail *in Brisbane.*



Baird gets challenged by Sydney's Matthew Bingley in May's Club World Championship.

"Football is going to go places and it will be just great to be part of it – especially in front of my home fans." *– Michael Baird*

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PERTH GLORY
Player Profiles

JASON PETKOVIC 1
GOALKEEPER

Age 32 **Games** 0
Height 194cm **Goals** 0
Weight 85kg

Second spell with Perth after a season in Turkey. Former NSL goalkeeper-of-the-year and has played at senior international level.

MATTHEW HORSLEY 2
DEFENDER/MIDFIELDER

Age 33 **Games** 0
Height 183cm **Goals** 0
Weight 77kg

Tough, game and consistent right-sided wing-back. Four-time NSL champion, twice as skipper of Wollongong, twice with Perth. Has played for Australia at senior level.

DAVID TARKA 3
DEFENDER

Age 22 **Games** 0
Height 190cm **Goals** 0
Weight 85kg

A full international representative who has returned after 18 months in England with Nottingham Forest. Will miss the season's start due to injury.

SIMON COLOSIMO 4
MIDFIELDER

Age 26 **Games** 0
Height 183cm **Goals** 0
Weight 75kg

Current international who scored the winner in Australia's victory over New Zealand in London. A Marston medal-winner for best afield in an NSL grand final.

JAMIE HARNWELL 5
DEFENDER

Age 28 **Games** 0
Height 188cm **Goals** 0
Weight 93kg

One of Perth's more experienced players, he is a no-nonsense defender who bobs up at the other end of the pitch to score crucial goals. The Glory's captain.

STEVE McMAHON JR 6
MIDFIELDER

Age 21 **Games** 0
Height 175cm **Goals** 0
Weight 71kg

The first signing made by his father Steve, the Glory's coach. Hard-running and tenacious, he also played for McMahon senior at Blackpool in England.

SCOTT MILLER 7
DEFENDER

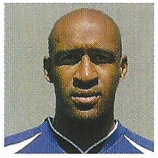
Age 33 **Games** 0
Height 178cm **Goals** 0
Weight 75kg

Miller has been with the Glory since the club entered the old NSL in 1996. Left-sided wing-back who missed much of last year with Achilles problems.

NICK WARD 8
MIDFIELDER

Age 20 **Games** 0
Height 183cm **Goals** 0
Weight 79kg

Young Socceroo anxious to stake his claim. A hard-working, tireless runner who scored the pre-season winner which snapped Sydney FC's unbeaten streak.



BRIAN DEANE 9
STRIKER

Age 37 **Games** 0
Height 192cm **Goals** 0
Weight 79kg

Became a footnote in football history when he scored the first goal in the English Premier League for Sheffield United in August 1992. Former England international.

BOBBY DESPOTOVSKI 10
STRIKER

Age 34 **Games** 0
Height 180cm **Goals** 0
Weight 81kg

Another in the veteran class, Glory's all-time top scorer put off retirement for another shot at the top-level in Australia. Quick, skilful and retains his eye for goal.

DANIEL VASILEVSKI 11
MIDFIELDER

Age 23 **Games** 0
Height 177cm **Goals** 0
Weight 78kg

Ex-Carlton and Melbourne Knights junior international with a lot of class who's career has been blighted by injury. Used mainly as a wing-back or wide midfielder.

HIROYUKI ISHIDA 12
WINGER

Age 25 **Games** 0
Height 171cm **Goals** 0
Weight 67kg

Flashy, pacy Japanese winger who illustrates the global nature of the game, having played in Brazil before arriving in Australia.

ANTE KOVACEVIC 13
DEFENDER

Age 31 **Games** 0
Height 186cm **Goals** 0
Weight 89kg

Experienced, tough-tackling centre-back with good leadership qualities who can also play as a sweeper. Won two NSL titles as a youngster with the Melbourne Knights.

JAMIE COYNE 14
DEFENDER/MIDFIELDER

Age 24 **Games** 0
Height 175cm **Goals** 0
Weight 76kg

Nowadays a right-back, Coyne began as a midfielder. Left Perth as a youngster and went to West Ham. Also had a spell in the Netherlands.

BILLY CELESKI 15
MIDFIELD

Age 20 **Height** 178cm
Games 0 **Weight** 73kg
Goals 0

Another Victorian who has gone west, Celeski came through the VIS program before moving on to the AIS. Has played for the Young Socceroos.

STUART YOUNG 17
STRIKER

Age 32 **Games** 0
Height 183cm **Goals** 0
Weight 85kg

Veteran striker who will provide forward cover. Twice NSL champion alongside Horsley at Wollongong.

HENRY FA'ARODO 18
STRIKER

Age 22 **Games** 0
Height 172cm **Goals** 0
Weight 70kg

The only Solomon Islands international in the Hyundai A-League. Blessed with lightening pace, but needs to improve his first touch if he wants to become a regular.

NAUM SEKULOVSKI 19
MIDFIELDER/WINGER

Age 23 **Games** 0
Height 181cm **Goals** 0
Weight 81kg

Another Victorian who came out of the VIS program, and played at a number of NSL clubs. An attacking midfielder who will be expected to provide support in the final third.

MILAN JOVANIC 20
GOALKEEPER

Age 20 **Games** 0
Height 187cm **Goals** 0
Weight 85kg

The Serbia and Montenegro youth international was pitched into action as first-choice keeper before Petkovic's clearance from Turkey came through.

ADRIAN CACERES 21
MIDFIELDER/STRIKER

Age 23 **Games** 0
Height 180cm **Goals** 0
Weight 78kg

Won two NSL titles with the Glory before moving to the Wycombe Wanderers in England. He is on a short-term contract replacing the injured Neil Teggart.

PERTH GLORY

Homeground:
Members Equity Stadium, Perth

Coach:
Steve McMahon

Captain:
Jamie Harnwell

No.	Name	Position	Goals
1.	Jason Petkovic	Goalkeeper	
2.	Matthew Horsley	Defender/Midfielder	
3.	David Tarka	Defender	
4.	Simon Colosimo	Midfielder	
5.	Jamie Harnwell	Defender	
6.	Steve McMahon Jr	Midfielder	
7.	Scott Miller	Defender	
8.	Nick Ward	Midfielder	
9.	Brian Deane	Striker	
10.	Bobby Despotovski	Striker	
11.	Daniel Vasilevski	Midfielder	
12.	Hiroyuki Ishida	Winger	
13.	Ante Kovacevic	Defender	
14.	Jamie Coyne	Defender/Midfielder	
15.	Billy Celeski	Midfield	
17.	Stuart Young	Striker	
18.	Henry Fa'arodo	Striker	
19.	Naum Sekulovski	Midfielder	
20.	Milan Jovanic	Goalkeeper	
21.	Adrian Caceres	Midfielder/Striker	

TEAM SCORE

Half-time

Full-time

Teammates congratulate Nick Ward (middle).

CENTRAL COAST MARINERS

Homeground:
Central Coast Stadium

Coach:
Lawrie McKinna

Captain:
Noel Spencer

No.	Name	Position	Goals
1.	John Crawley	Goalkeeper	
2.	Wayne O'Sullivan	Midfielder	
3.	Paul O'Grady	Defender	
4.	Noel Spencer	Midfielder	
5.	Michael Beauchamp	Defender	
6.	Andre Gumprecht	Midfielder	
7.	John Hutchinson	Midfielder	
8.	Dean Heffernan	Midfielder	
9.	Nick Mrdja	Striker	
10.	Tom Pondeljak	Midfielder	
11.	Damien Brown	Midfielder	
12.	Stewart Petrie	Striker	
13.	Russell Woodruffe	Striker	
14.	Leo Carle	Midfielder	
15.	Andrew Clark	Defender	
16.	Nigel Boogaard	Defender	
17.	Matthew Osman	Midfielder	
18.	Alex Wilkinson	Defender	
19.	Adam Kwasnik	Striker	
20.	Danny Vukovic	Goalkeeper	

TEAM SCORE

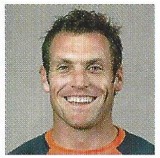
Half-time

Full-time

The Mariners celebrate winning the Pre-Season Cup.

CENTRAL COAST MARINERS

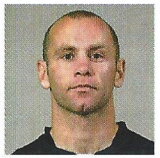
Player Profiles



JOHN CRAWLEY 1
GOALKEEPER

Age 33 **Games** 0
Height 186cm **Goals** 0
Weight 90kg

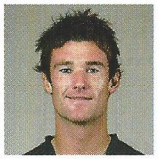
Spent five years in the NSW Premier League with Blacktown City. Also played in South America for top Chilean side Colo Colo for five seasons.



WAYNE O'SULLIVAN 2
MIDFIELDER

Age 31 **Games** 0
Height 173cm **Goals** 0
Weight 72kg

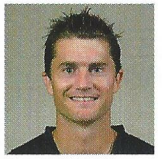
A crowd favourite, the former Northern spirit player is a tireless midfield worker. An Irish youth international, he played with the Parramatta Power and Northern Spirit.



PAUL O'GRADY 3
DEFENDER

Age 26 **Games** 0
Height 194cm **Goals** 0
Weight 93kg

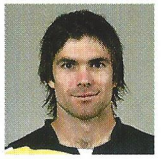
An NSL grand finalist with Parramatta, O'Grady is a tall defender who has also had overseas experience in Singapore.



NOEL SPENCER 4
MIDFIELDER

Age 27 **Games** 0
Height 193cm **Goals** 0
Weight 80kg

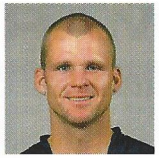
The Mariners captain, Spencer is a former Northern Spirit player. He boasts a fierque long-distance shot and will be a key component of the Mariners midfield.



MICHAEL BEAUCHAMP 5
DEFENDER

Age 24 **Games** 0
Height 191cm **Goals** 0
Weight 85kg

A surprise call-up by Socceroo coach Guus Hiddink for the August training camp in the Netherlands, the centre-back will be looking to push for full international honours



ANDRE GUMPRECHT 6
MIDFIELDER

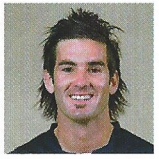
Age 31 **Games** 0
Height 177cm **Goals** 0
Weight 79kg

Genuine box-to-box midfielder, this compact German is a proven top-level performer, having played in NSL Grand Finals with Perth Glory and Parramatta Power.

JOHN HUTCHINSON 7
MIDFIELDER

Age 25 **Games** 0
Height 188cm **Goals** 0
Weight 77kg

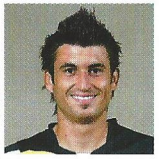
A pacy midfielder who is always an attacking threat with his speed and dribbling ability. Previously played with Northern Spirit in the NSL.



DEAN HEFFERNAN 8
MIDFIELDER

Age 25 **Games** 0
Height 188cm **Goals** 0
Weight 85kg

Previously with Sydney United in the NSL, Heffernan made a big impression during the pre-season competition. Also played at Wollongong in the NSL.



NICK MRDJA 9
STRIKER

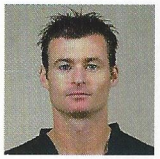
Age 26 **Games** 0
Height 188cm **Goals** 0
Weight 85kg

Mrdja went down in Australian football history as the last-ever NSL goalscorer when his golden-goal strike for Perth Glory gave them Grand Final victory in April 2004.

TOM PONDELJAK 10
MIDFIELDER

Age 29 **Games** 0
Height 175cm **Goals** 0
Weight 72kg

Well-travelled and highly-talented, this ex-Socceroo midfielder's pace, skill and abilty to strike from distance have always made him a handful for opposition defences.



DAMIEN BROWN 11
MIDFIELDER

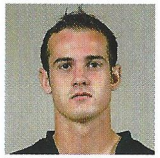
Age 30 **Games** 0
Height 175cm **Goals** 0
Weight 69kg

A local boy who came to Central Coast from Newcastle. His performances in the pre-season competition showed he can deliver at this level.

STEWART PETRIE 12
STRIKER

Age 35 **Games** 0
Height 178cm **Goals** 0
Weight 80kg

Rugged Scottish striker now in the veteran stage, Petrie still has the ability to cause problems for defences. Spent 10 years at Scottish Premier League side Dunfermline.



RUSSELL WOODRUFFE 13
STRIKER

Age 19 **Games** 0
Height 181cm **Goals** 0
Weight 75kg

Australian youth international who impressed enough in trial matches to win a contract. Returned to Australia from Bury in England.

LEO CARLE 14
MIDFIELDER

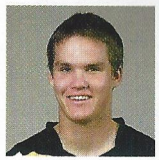
Age 24 **Games** 0
Height 175cm **Goals** 0
Weight 76kg

Strong on the ball, the creative left-sided midfielder is the older brother of Newcastle's Nick. Played for the Olyroos and represented Australia in the Beach Football World Cup.

ANDREW CLARK 15
DEFENDER

Age 30 **Games** 0
Height 181cm **Goals** 0
Weight 75kg

Local product whose strengths are his power and fitness. Played in the NSL with Parramatta and Canberra, and in Asia with Malaysian club Kedah.



NIGEL BOOGAARD 16
DEFENDER

Age 18 **Games** 0
Height 187cm **Goals** 0
Weight 86kg

Australian youth international formerly with Newcastle, Boogard is the youngest player in the Mariners line-up and one of the club's under-20 signings.

MATTHEW OSMAN 17
MIDFIELDER

Age 21 **Games** 0
Height 183cm **Goals** 0
Weight 73kg

A former Northern Spirit player like several of his teammates, this Young Socceroo is a quick and tough utility who can play in defence or midfield.

ALEX WILKINSON 18
DEFENDER

Age 20 **Games** 0
Height 187cm **Goals** 0
Weight 78kg

A lanky defender who can play on the flanks or in the middle of the back four, Wilkinson has been a regular in the national teams at under-17 and under-20 level.

ADAM KWASNIK 19
STRIKER

Age 22 **Games** 0
Height 180cm **Goals** 0
Weight 73kg

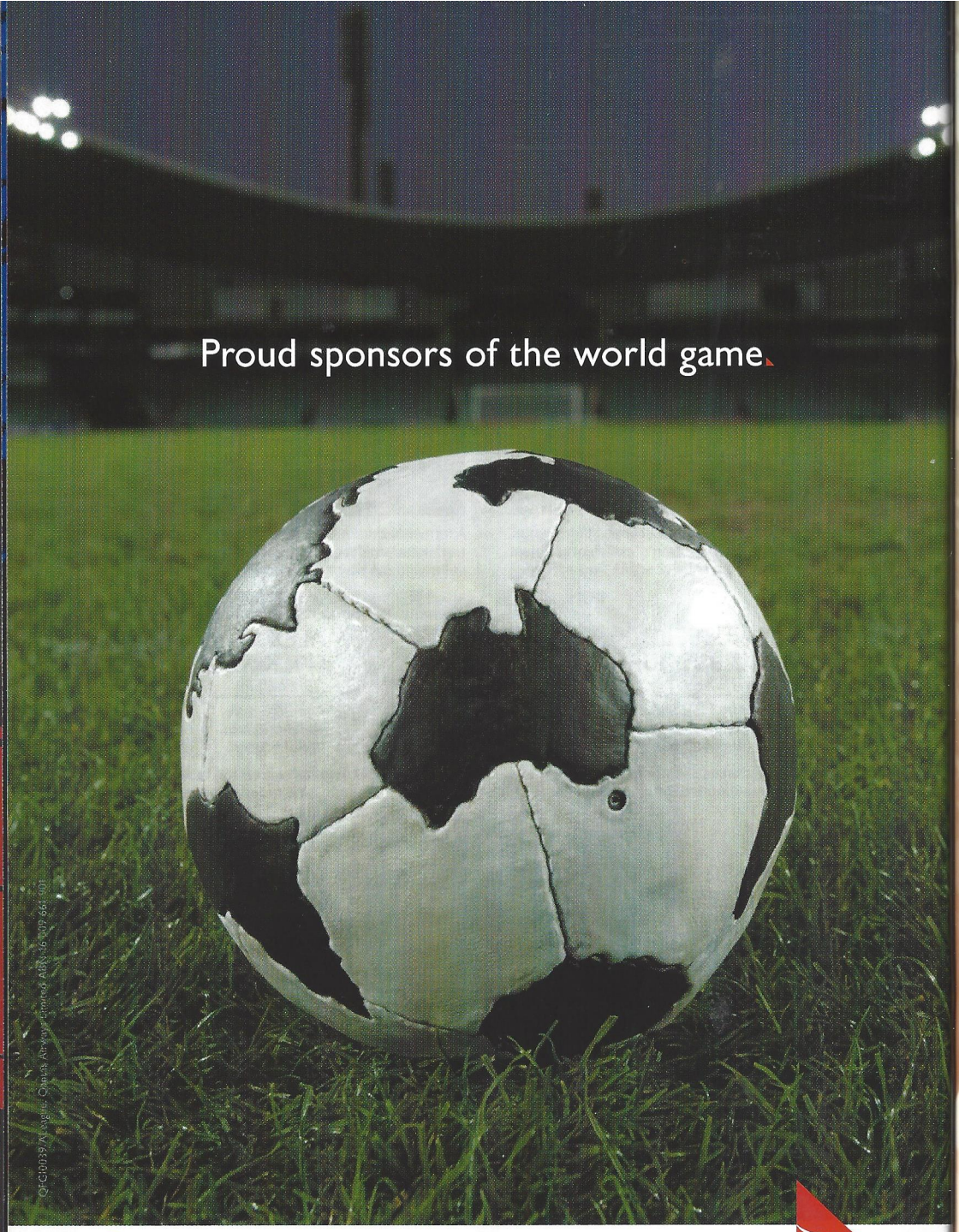
Quick-footed frontman, Kwasnik is rated as one of the country's top finishers by his coach. Had NSL experience with Northern Spirit.

DANNY VUKOVIC 20
GOALKEEPER

Age 20 **Games** 0
Height 187cm **Goals** 0
Weight 96kg

Current Australian under-20 goalkeeper, Vukovic will understudy Crawley and offers solid cover for the first-choice gloveman.

Proud sponsors of the world game.



AUSTRALIA FOOTBALL

Qantas is proud to sponsor the Hyundai A League and all of our national football teams. That's the spirit. **The Spirit of Australia.**
qantas.com

QANTAS

WORDS: Mark Hopkins

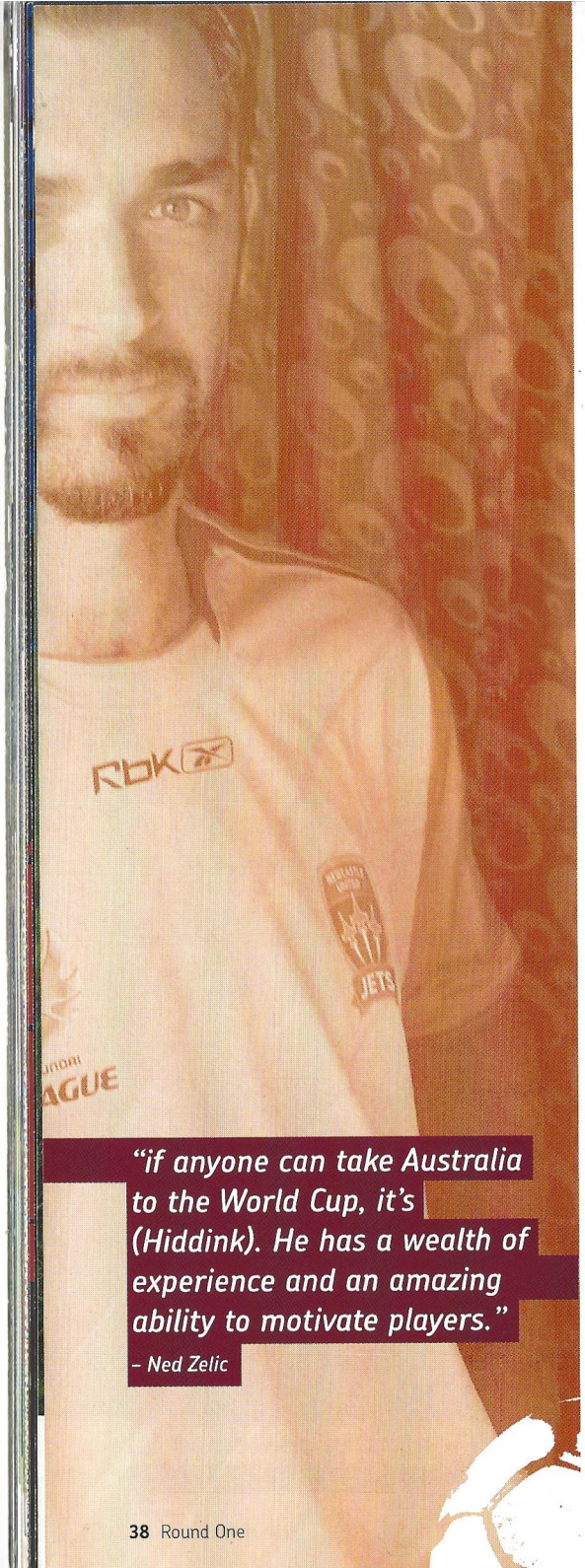
HOME COMING

Newcastle's Ned Zelic, one of the most talented Australian players ever to lace up the boots, gives his thoughts on his teammates, Guus Hiddink and his plans for retirement.

He's played against Roberto Baggio, won a Bundesliga title with Borussia Dortmund and scored a wonder goal against the Netherlands back in 1992. Little wonder, then, that when Newcastle Jets needed someone experienced to lead their young team during the inaugural Hyundai A-League season, they made Ned Zelic top of their shopping list. *Total Football* caught up with the 34-year-old, former Socceroo to see how he's getting on.

Total Football: What prompted you to return to Australia and play for the Jets?
Ned Zelic: It wasn't an easy decision. I had another year on my contract [at Wacker Tirol, in Austria] so I took my time to think about it. Ultimately, though, the opportunity to come here was too good to turn down. The Jets are a good team and I had a gut feeling that it was right to be involved.

What is the set-up like at the Jets? Will you win any silverware this season?
There's a lot of potential here, that's for sure. Especially as the squad is a good combination of



"if anyone can take Australia to the World Cup, it's [illegible] (Hiddink). He has a wealth of experience and an amazing ability to motivate players."
– Ned Zelic

young players and experienced heads like myself. It's a bit hard to predict how we'll fare in the league, though. Playing in pre-season games and playing for points is very different, but I certainly think we'll be there or thereabouts.

How do standards in the Hyundai A-League compare with overseas?
It would be wrong to compare, as there are too many differences. Take Europe as an example: All the great players play there – stars like Gabriel Batitstuta and Roberto Baggio, both who I played against. So, the standard of competition, skill and technical flair is the best in the world. The pace and intensity of the game is completely different, too.

Have you set yourself any personal goals this season, like getting back into national squad contention?
Playing for the Socceroos is only at the back of my mind, to be honest. My first priority is to play extremely well for the Jets and lead my team to great things. If, in doing so, I play well and get called up, then, great.

Do you want to end your self-imposed exile and be involved in this November's World Cup qualifier?
If the coaching staff feel they want me, and there's no umming and ahhing, then, yes.

Talking of the Socceroos, what do you think of Guus Hiddink's appointment?
I was surprised that the FFA could get someone of his calibre. After all, he has achieved a lot of great things with South Korea and at club level. He's got a big challenge on his hands, though. Whoever the fifth-placed South American opponent is, they will be tough to beat. But if anyone can take Australia to the World Cup, it's him. He has a wealth of experience and an amazing ability to motivate players.

Given your experience of playing in World Cup qualifiers, is there a particular South American opponent you don't want to be drawn against?
Typical fifth-place teams like Chile and Paraguay are always hard to beat. The worst, though, would probably be Ecuador, simply because of the altitude [Ecuador"s home ground is at 2800 metres above sea level]. I saw them play on TV at home the other day and they came from two-nil down to beat their opponents by three goals because their opponents weren't used to playing in thin air.

Ned Zelic (left), playing for TSV 1860 Munich in different conditions to what he'll find in Australia.

You're 34 now. How do you think you've changed over the course of your career?
Probably the wealth of experience I now have. I am very fortunate in that certain things haven't changed much physically during my career. I still have my pace, which has always been a big factor in my game and something I will use a lot this season.

Your goal against the Netherlands in Olympic qualifying must be a career highlight, but do you have any others?
I have a few. Winning the German title and playing in the UEFA Cup final with Borussia Dortmund are particular highlights.

Although players hate talking about hanging up their boots, have you started to think what you will do when you do retire?
I am lucky that I have a doctor's degree to fall back on [laughs]. Only joking. I am really not sure what path I will follow. I will probably stay in the game. Become a manager or a player agent.

Other than the Jets, who do you think will shine in the Hyundai A-League this year?
Personally, I think Melbourne will do well. They have got a really decent side together and will get some great results.

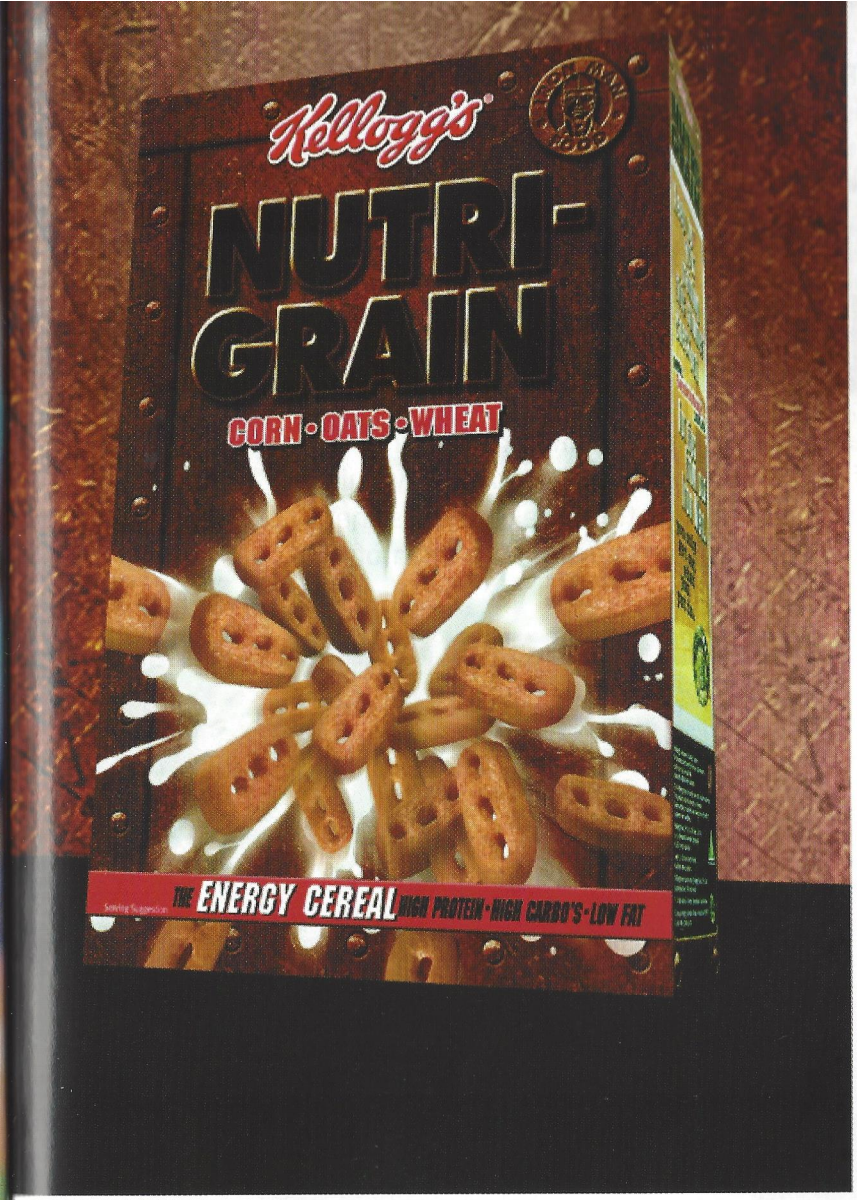
You've played with and against some great players in your time. Have you seen anyone that impresses you here in Australia?
I have only seen my teammates really, as I haven't played much pre-season because of a niggle in my left knee. If I had to name someone though, it would be Andrew Durante, He's injured at the moment, but I look forward to him getting back to fitness as we've got a great team here. The challenge of winning something in this all-important first season is really what brought me here in the first place.

QUICK HITS

Ned Zelic

CLUB: Newcastle Jets
POSITION: Midfielder
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Wacker Tirol (Austria), 1860 Munich (Germany), Auxerre (France), Queens Park Rangers (England), Borussia Dortmund (Germany).
SPORTING HERO: Growing up, I worshipped Diego Maradona. He was awesome.
HOBBIES: I love playing golf, cards and tennis.
LAST CD YOU BOUGHT?: The Music's *Welcome To The North*.
PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENT? Football's been my life, so I will have to say the period of time I played overseas.
PERSONAL MOTTO? Never dwell on the past. Concentrate on the future.

Zelic playing for Australia against Brazil in Sydney in 1999.



NEW ZEALAND KNIGHTS FOOTBALL CLUB

NZKNIGHTS.COM

Kelloggs is proud to be the Official Breakfast Supplier to the New Zealand Knights Football Club. This partnership includes naming rights of the Nutri-Grain Allstar Cheerleaders who will perform pre-match and at half time at North Harbour Stadium. Children attending the Knights matches will also be able to take part in the Coco Pops Cheerleader Dance Classes. Kellogg's has a philosophy of encouraging men, women, boys and girls to be active as well as eating a balanced diet. By supporting the New Zealand Knights, Kellogg's aims to help inspire young football players to follow their dreams and achieve all of their goals - as many of the New Zealand Knights are currently doing.

WORDS: Dave Lewis

STARTING LINE

When Frank Lowy and John O'Neill launched their revolution of Australian football, they knew it wouldn't happen overnight. However, this weekend sees the sport clear a very important hurdle - the birth of a new national league.

Turning off the life support system for the terminally ill National Soccer League was the easy part. Crafting a new competition from its charred remains was where it got tricky.

How to convince an ambivalent public that football was more than just a battle ground for festering ethnic enmities and rampant mismanagement is described by Football Federation Australia chief executive John O'Neill as the "hardest thing" he's ever tackled in sport – and, as the man who spectacularly managed the the 2003 Rugby World Cup, he should know.

After 27 years of failing to move beyond its sectarian boundaries and $500 million invested in a total of 46 teams over its lifetime, the national league's template was a signpost to oblivion.

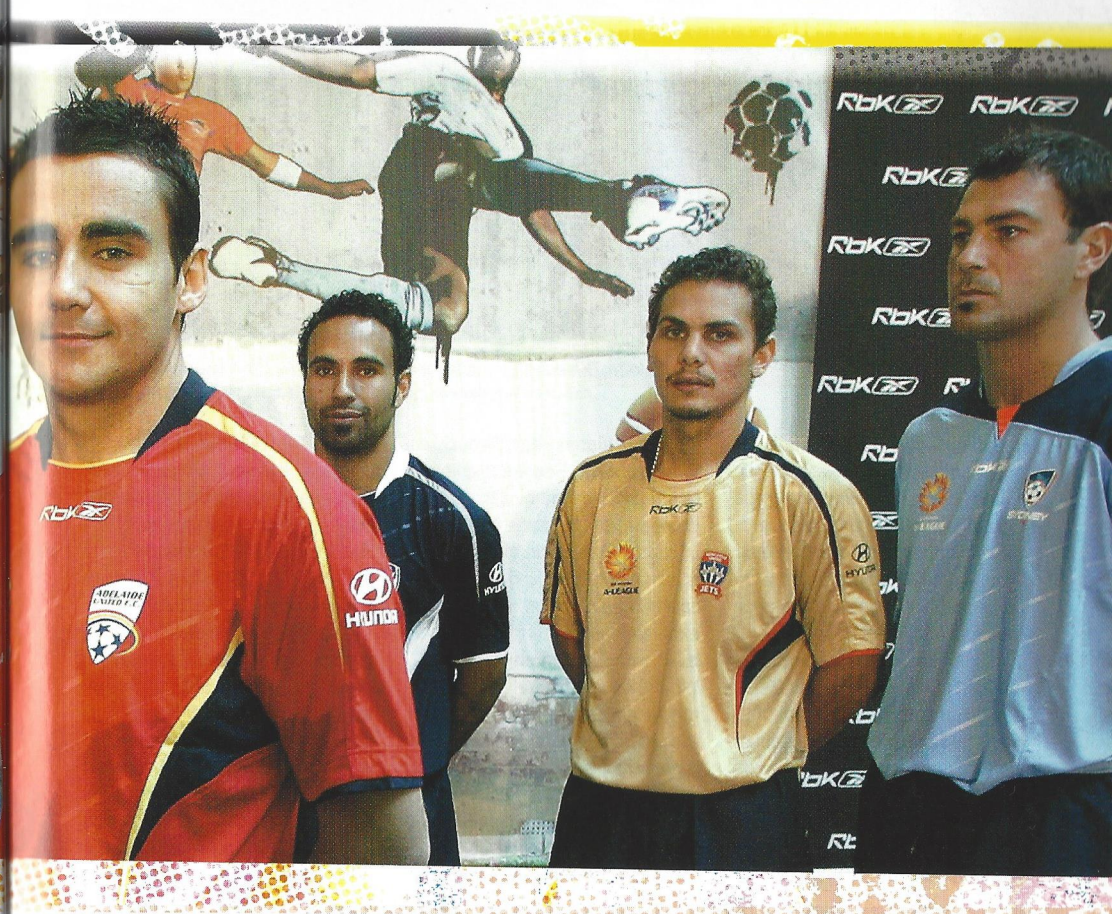
O'Neill, who began planning his revolution 17 months ago, admits this is football's "last throw of the dice" in a marketplace which will not tolerate a repeat of the faction fighting, administrative incompetence and crowd violence which have stunted the code's growth.

"Challenges don't come any bigger than eight franchises all funded by private equity," he says.

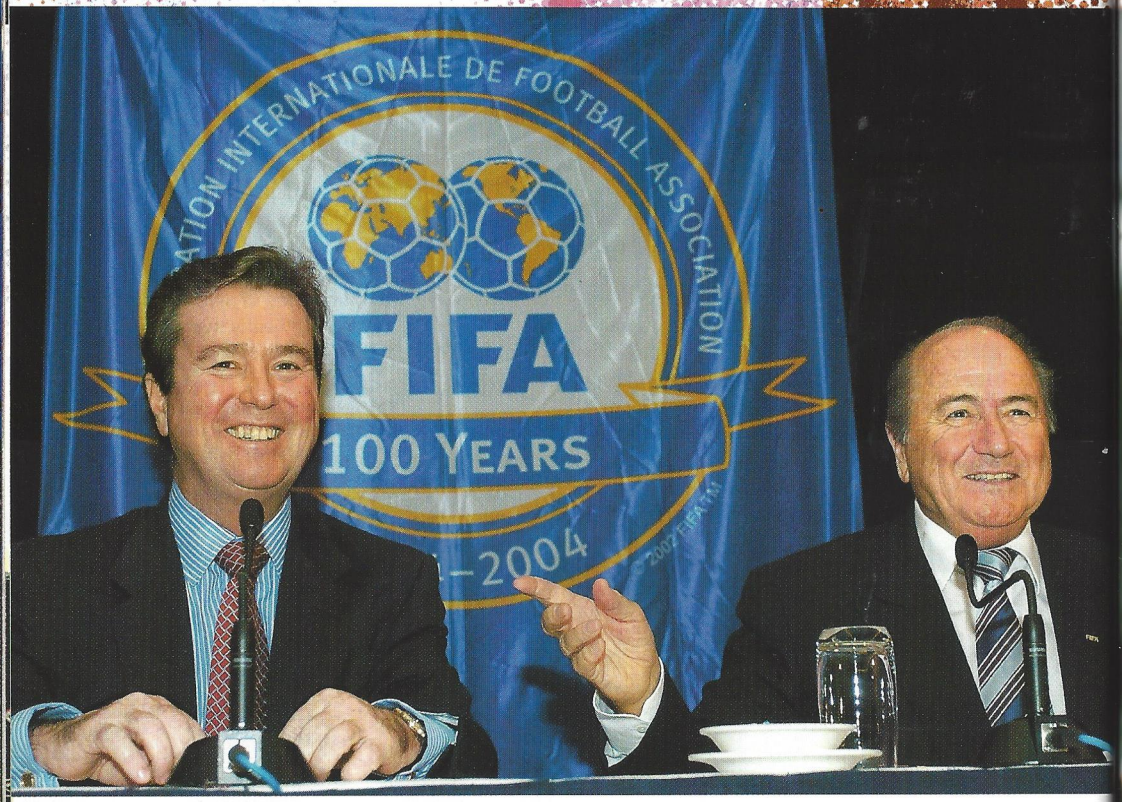
"Add the fact that each club had to raise $5 million in start-up costs – that's $40 million in capital, plus $5m in running costs per year.

"That's been a big ask. Especially with the unknown quantity of gate revenue."

Appointed by Australian football's overlord, Frank Lowy, who returned from a long exile from the game to mastermind its resurrection nearly two years ago, O'Neill has trodden on more



The new faces of Australian football: (left to right): David Tarka, Andre Gumprecht, Noah Hickey, Michael Baird, Travis Dodd, Archie Thompson, Jade North, Mark Rudan.



The powerbrokers: John O'Neill (left) with FIFA president Sepp Blatter. Above: Frank Lowy (right) with O'Neill at the league's launch.

"I had a lot of trepidation over the magnitude of the challenge and that has not gone away." *– John O'Neill*

toes than an inebriated tango dancer in turning, in his own words, "old soccer" into "new football". Only four franchises remain from the old days – Perth Glory, Adelaide United and the re-badged Newcastle Jets and New Zealand Knights.

"I never had any illusions how hard this was going to be," he adds. "Prior to my arrival, the National Soccer League taskforce had provided a good overview of what had gone wrong.

"I had a lot of trepidation over the magnitude of the challenge, and that has not gone away. We're not kidding ourselves that the Hyundai A-League is going to jump out of the blocks and immediately challenge the likes of rugby league and AFL – this is a modest beginning built on sound management and realistic expectations. We're trying to build something that will last. When I arrived there were a range of models being kicked around. There were credibility issues right across the board [from the past]."

In collaboration with his lieutenant, Matt Carroll – a compadre from his days running rugby – O'Neill decided on cautious approach with an eight-team, one-franchise-per-city plan, despite complaints that Sydney and Melbourne, in particular, could easily sustain two teams.

"We were worried about the depth of financial resources. When you look back through the wreckage of the old NSL, it's staggering how much money was lost. There was $50 million spent in the last four years of the NSL alone.

"That's very confronting. I decided that unless we got the capital structure of the clubs on solid foundations, we'd be repeating the same merry-go-round. During the life of the NSL, only three of the clubs that started were there at the end. So, we put in place at head office, and at club level, the right financial structures. That meant living within our means. In the past the clubs simply spent more than they earned, largely on player payments."

Hence the limit of 20 players per squad and a stringent $1.5 million salary cap, which has the provision for one marquee player per club. These edicts will be softened, especially the limit on squad sizes, with the FFA considering letting them rise to 24 following complaints from clubs stricken by injuries and international call-ups.

"The size of squads and salary cap are contentious points, but we have to start modestly," adds O'Neill. "We don't know what the revenues will be. But, as we speak, things are being looked at and I'm sympathetic to the clubs on this issue.

"The idea of creating a nexus between the Hyundai A-League and the State Leagues which allows players to move seamlessly has a lot of merit. If you can enter into an arrangement to second players out of the state league, that seems to make a lot of sense."

On the league's TV deal with Fox Sports, O'Neill says: "It's about exposure for us. [There are 80 games broadcast live and exclusive on Fox Sports.] The rights fee is modest at this stage.

"We've also brought Hyundai, Reebok, Qantas, Coca-Cola and Telstra to the table as sponsors, where the old competition had

none. Spread across the whole of the FFA, the whose package is worth around the $10m mark.'

With 17 months between competitions. O'Neill and his team were selling something that, as he puts it, "didn't exist".

"When we went to see the Fox people, we couldn't show them something that was up-and-running, the same goes for Coke, Hyundai, Qantas and the rest. Essentially, we were selling a dream. In sport, things don't get much more challenging than that."

The league is also selling itself through a raw-edged $5 million TV advertising, using some of its own players in an urban-style, hip-hop-soundtracked commercial straight from the Pepsi and Nike stable of street-smart, youth-orientated commercials.

To make sure punters get what they are looking for, O'Neill is committed to making sure the clubs embrace the notion of attractive football. But he is under no illusions over the scope of the competition.

"We're not pretending this will be a copy of the English Premier League," he adds. "But there are some very good players here. Our new national coach Guus Hiddink watched the pre-season cup game between Sydney and New Zealand Knights and was very complimentary. In fact, on the back of that match, Saso Petrovksi was called up for the recent Socceroos camp in the Netherlands.

"But this is a global game and we have to accept that our best players will always go overseas because this market cannot afford to keep them here. If we can get up to paying around $150,000-a-year, on average, that's a pretty good salary."

O'Neill aims to tap into the underlying popularity of the code, which is more popular than any other in Australia at grassroots level.

"We have to carve our own niche and appeal to mainstream Australians," he adds.

O'Neill sees the Central Coast Mariners as a future template. Local businesses have rallied to help raise $1 million of the outstanding $1.5 million capital investment still required.

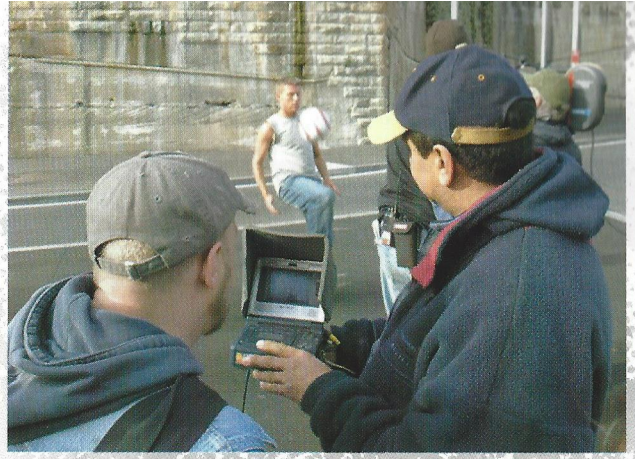
The FFA has pledged not to let the club – which boasts a tailor-made boutique stadium and a sound supporter base – go to the wall. He is also confident the Melbourne Victory – yet to lock-in a major sponsor – will attract the backing it needs.

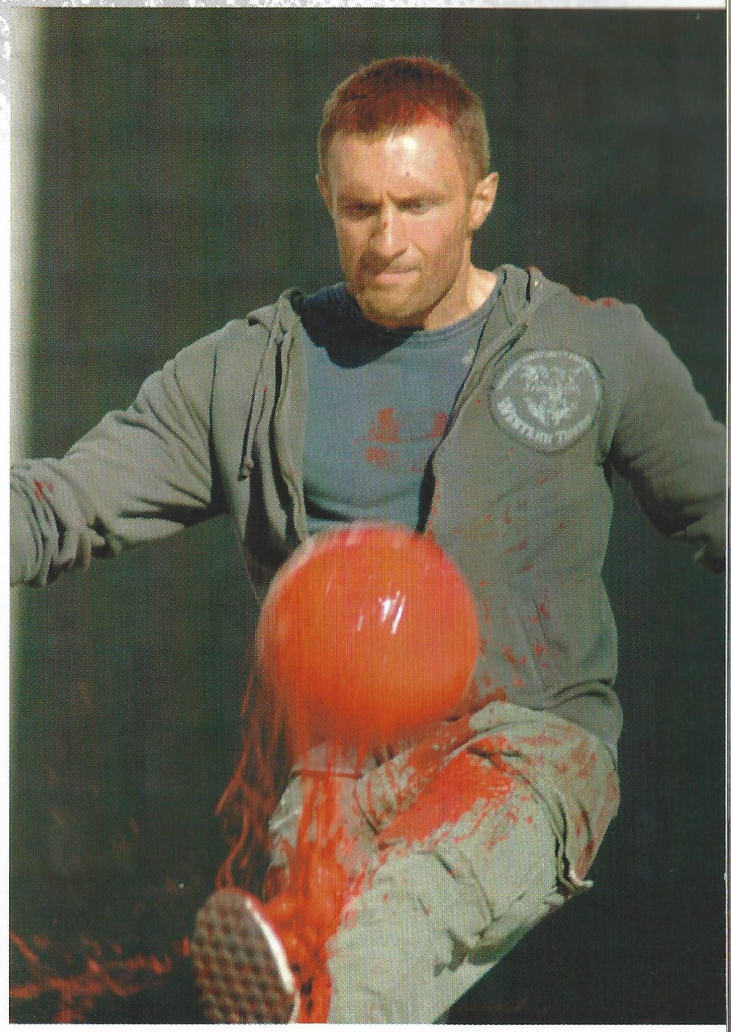
After recent criticism that O'Neill has turned his back on sections of the ethnic community which once ran the game, he insists: "It's about celebrating cultural diversity rather than making it a barrier. The Hyundai A-League has to be a place that everybody can embrace.

"This is a unique opportunity for soccer; it's vital we don't blow it.

"Hopefully we'll look back in a few years and say 'This when we turned the game around'."

Dave Lewis covers football for the Daily Telegraph *in Sydney.*

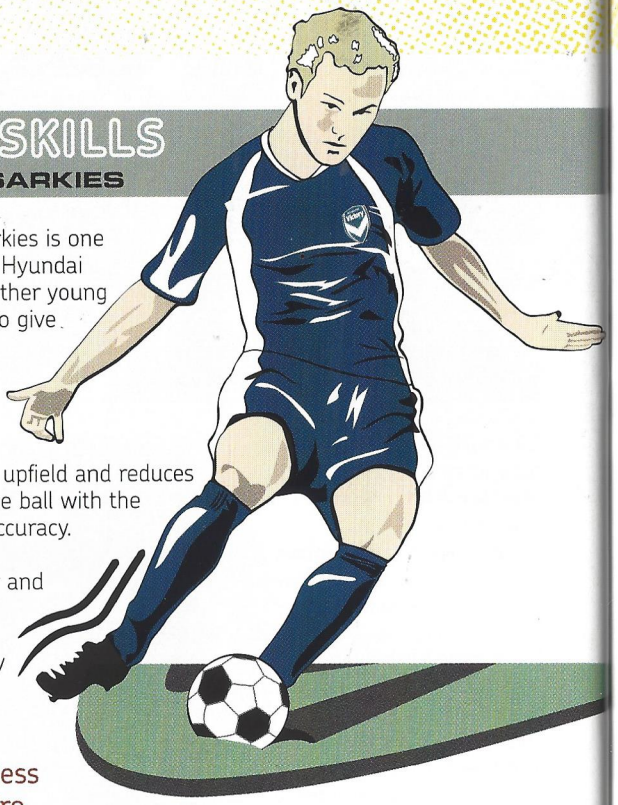




Behind the scenes of the league's new television commerical. Opposite page: A splattered Chad Gibson from the Roar juggles with the Sydney Harbour bridge in the background. Left: The crew shoot Sydney's Ufuk Talay. Below: The Roar's Jonathan Richter.

FOOTBALL SKILLS
WITH KRISTIAN SARKIES

Melbourne Victory midfielder Kristian Sarkies is one of the most exciting young talents in the Hyundai A-League. Through the season, he and other young guns from around the league are going to give you tips on becoming a great player.



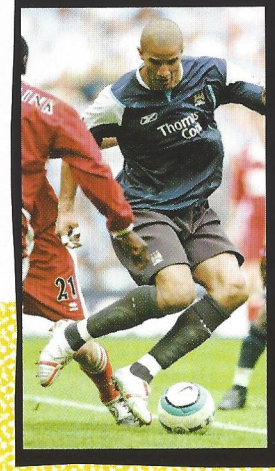
The week's skill
> SIDEFOOT PASS

Passing is a great way of getting the ball upfield and reduces the risk of giving the ball away. Hitting the ball with the inside of the foot provides the greatest accuracy.

But it is difficult to generate much power and it is also easy for an opponent to see where exactly you are intending to pass the ball. Due to both of these reasons try to use this skill just for short passes.

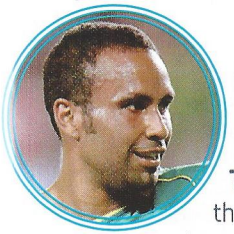
KRISTIAN SAYS:

"This is a more accurate but less powerful pass. Know where you're passing it – look up. Then, when you hit it, keep your head down and stike cleanly through the ball, hitting it with your instep. Remember to follow through."



What in the weird?

Goalkeepers are a unusual bunch, and some fancy themselves as outfielders more than others. Last season, in a desperate attempt to score, Manchester City sent keeper **David James** (left) forward to try and nab the winning goal. But this effort pales into insignicance when you consider another Man City keeper, **Harry Dowd**, who stood between the posts for City in the '60s. Dowd, who was partial to the odd dribble outside his own penalty area, injured his shoulder in the first half of a match against Bury in 1964. With his side trailing 1-0 and because there were no substitutes, he played on as a striker, with forward **Matt Gray** taking his place between the sticks. Then, with seven minutes remaining, Dowd popped up to equalise.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Melbourne Victory's **Archie Thompson** holds the world record for the most goals scored in an international match. He put 13 past American Samoa on April 11, 2001 as Australia won 31-0, also a world record.

JUMBLED PLAYERS

Some of the Hyundai A-League's players have had their names rearranged. Can you unjumble them? Answers are below the jumbled names.

1. MIMIC OSLO SOON plays for Perth.

2. A COP HIRES MONTH plays up front for Melbourne.

3. Adelaide midfielder LAOS OSIRIS.

4. Central Coast's engine room DANK PELT MOJO.

5. ACE VICE SORT is a midfielder for Sydney.

Answers: 1. Simon Colosimo. 2. Archie Thompson. 3. Ross Aloisi. 4. Tom Pondeljak. 5. Steve Corica.

Life's a beach

Central Coast's Leo Carle can boast something that no other Hyundai A-League player can: the skilful midfielder represented Australia at the FIFA Beach Football World Cup earlier this year.

A-Z OF FOOTBALL

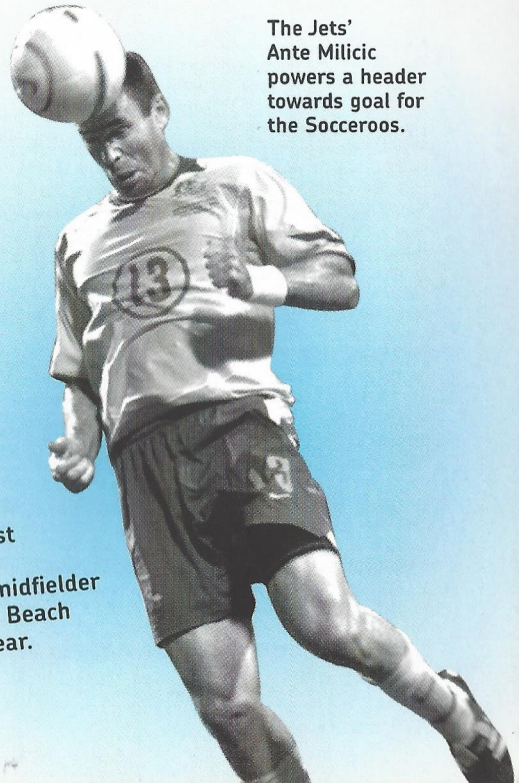
Join us as we work our way through the football alphabet.

Aston Villa
Birmingham-based club where Sydney FC star Dwight Yorke began his Premier League career.

Aussie Stadium
The home ground of Sydney FC.

A-League
The exciting new development in Australian football, which brings the highest standard of weekly football to the Australian public.

Aerial ability
The skill to head the ball well. Players like Brian Deane and Ante Milicic are known for winning the ball in the air.



The Jets' Ante Milicic powers a header towards goal for the Socceroos.

FIXTURE

ROUND	FIXTURE	VENUE	KICK-OFF
ROUND 1			
Fri 26 Aug 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs Adelaide United FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00 pm
Fri 26 Aug 05	Perth Glory FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	8.00 pm
Sun 28 Aug 05	Queensland Roar FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	3.00 pm
Sun 28 Aug 05	Sydney FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00 pm
ROUND 2			
Fri 2 Sep 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Sydney FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Fri 2 Sep 05	Adelaide United FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Sun 4 Sep 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	3.00 pm
Sun 4 Sep 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Perth Glory FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	5.00 pm
ROUND 3			
Fri 9 Sep 05	Adelaide United FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Sat 10 Sep 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	7.35 pm
Sat 10 Sep 05	Perth Glory FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.35 pm
Sun 11 Sep 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs Sydney FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
ROUND 4			
Fri 16 Sep 05	Sydney FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sat 17 Sep 05	Perth Glory FC vs Adelaide United FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.35 pm
Sun 18 Sep 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	3.00 pm
Sun 18 Sep 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
ROUND 5			
Thu 22 Sep 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Perth Glory FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Fri 23 Sep 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Sydney FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	8.00 pm
Sun 25 Sep 05	Adelaide United FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	2.30 pm
Sun 25 Sep 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	5.00 pm
ROUND 6			
Fri 30 Sep 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00 pm
Sat 1 Oct 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	7.35 pm
Sat 1 Oct 05	Perth Glory FC vs Sydney FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.35 pm
Sun 2 Oct 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Adelaide United FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	6.00 pm
ROUND 7			
Fri 7 Oct 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	8.00 pm
Sat 8 Oct 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs Perth Glory FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	7.35 pm
Sun 9 Oct 05	Sydney FC vs Adelaide United FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00 pm
Mon 10 Oct 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	7.00 pm
ROUND 8			
Fri 14 Oct 05	Adelaide United FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Sun 16 Oct 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Sydney FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	1.00 pm
Sun 16 Oct 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Queensland Roar FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	6.00 pm
Sun 16 Oct 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Perth Glory FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	5.00 pm
ROUND 9			
Fri 21 Oct 05	Sydney FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sat 22 Oct 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Adelaide United FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.35 pm
Sun 23 Oct 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
Sun 23 Oct 05	Perth Glory FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	5.00 pm
ROUND 10			
Fri 28 Oct 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Adelaide United FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Sat 29 Oct 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Sat 29 Oct 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Perth Glory FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.35 pm
Sun 30 Oct 05	Sydney FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00 pm
ROUND 11			
Fri 4 Nov 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Fri 4 Nov 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Sat 5 Nov 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Sydney FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00 pm
Sun 6 Nov 05	Adelaide United FC vs Perth Glory FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	4.30 pm
ROUND 12			
Fri 11 Nov 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Fri 11 Nov 05	Perth Glory FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.00 pm
Sun 13 Nov 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Adelaide United FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	3.00 pm
Sun 13 Nov 05	Sydney FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00 pm

ROUND	FIXTURE	VENUE	KICK-OFF
ROUND 13			
Fri 18 Nov 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Sat 19 Nov 05	Sydney FC vs Perth Glory FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sun 20 Nov 05	Adelaide United FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	4.30 pm
Sun 20 Nov 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	6.00 pm
ROUND 14			
Fri 25 Nov 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00 pm
Fri 25 Nov 05	Perth Glory FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.00 pm
Sat 26 Nov 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Sun 27 Nov 05	Adelaide United FC vs Sydney FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	4.30 pm
ROUND 15			
Thu 1 Dec 05	Queensland Roar FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00 pm
Fri 2 Dec 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs Adelaide United FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00 pm
Sat 3 Dec 05	Sydney FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sun 4 Dec 05	Perth Glory FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	5.00 pm
WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS - WEEK ENDING 11 DECEMBER 2005			
WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS - WEEK ENDING 18 DECEMBER 2005			
WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS - WEEK ENDING 25 DECEMBER 2005			
ROUND 16			
Thu 29 Dec 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Perth Glory FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Fri 30 Dec 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Sydney FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Sat 31 Dec 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00 pm
Sun 1 Jan 06	Adelaide United FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	6.30 pm
ROUND 17			
Thu 5 Jan 06	Adelaide United FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Fri 6 Jan 06	Sydney FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sat 7 Jan 06	Perth Glory FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.00 pm
Sun 8 Jan 06	Central Coast Mariners FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	5.00 pm
ROUND 18			
Thu 12 Jan 06	Perth Glory FC vs Adelaide United FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.00 pm
Fri 13 Jan 06	Newcastle Jets FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00 pm
Sat 14 Jan 06	Sydney FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sun 15 Jan 06	Queensland Roar FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	6.00 pm
ROUND 19			
Thu 19 Jan 06	New Zealand Knights FC vs Perth Glory FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Fri 20 Jan 06	Adelaide United FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Sat 21 Jan 06	Queensland Roar FC vs Sydney FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00 pm
Sun 22 Jan 06	Newcastle Jets FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
ROUND 20			
Thu 26 Jan 06	Newcastle Jets FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00 pm
Fri 27 Jan 06	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00 pm
Sat 28 Jan 06	New Zealand Knights FC vs Adelaide United FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Sun 29 Jan 06	Perth Glory FC vs Sydney FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	5.00 pm
ROUND 21			
Fri 3 Feb 06	Sydney FC vs Adelaide United FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sat 4 Feb 06	Melbourne Victory FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	6.00 pm
Sat 4 Feb 06	Queensland Roar FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00 pm
Sun 5 Feb 06	Newcastle Jets FC vs Perth Glory FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
FINALS			
WEEK 1	**SEMI-FINAL 1ST LEG (1 v 2, 3 v 4)**		
Fri 10 Feb 06			
Sun 12 Feb 06			
WEEK 2	**SEMI-FINAL 2ND LEG (1 v 2, 3 v 4)**		
Fri 17 Feb 06			
Sun 19 Feb 06			
WEEK 3	**PRELIMINARY FINAL (LOSER 1 v 2) v (WINNER 3 v 4)**		
Sat 25 Feb 06			
WEEK 4	**GRAND FINAL (WINNER 1 v 2) v (WINNER PRELIMINARY)**		
Sat 4 Mar 06			

All times local and subject to change

CLUBNEWS

A club-by-club guide to what's happening off the field in the Hyundai A-League.

Adelaide United

Match-Day Tickets

Tickets for all AUFC home games at Hindmarsh Stadium for the Hyundai A-League season are now available from Venue*tix 8225 8888 or direct from www.adelaideunited.com.au.

Official Club Store

Port Road Sports, located at 142 Port Road Hindmarsh, is the Official Club Store of Adelaide United FC.

Opening hours:

Monday	9.00am - 5.30pm
Tuesday	9.00am - 5.30pm
Wednesday	9.00am - 5.30pm
Thursday	9.00am - 7.30pm
Friday	9.00am - 5.30pm
Saturday	9.00am - 3.00pm

Website

For the up to date information on the Adelaide United FC visit www.adelaideunited.com.au.

Central Coast Mariners

The Central Coast Mariners have paralleled their unprecedented on field success with strong initiatives off the field, engaging with their local community to great effect ahead of the Hyundai A-League kick off.

Prior to their Western Australian sojourn to face the Perth Glory at Members Equity Stadium, the Mariners conducted one of their last coaching clinics of the 2005 Central Coast Soccer Association season, at the coast's largest club in terms of playing numbers – Killarney District.

In early September, all 20 of the Mariners inaugural Hyundai A-League playing roster will waltz from the playing pitch to the catwalk, where they will showcase their modeling talent at Westfield Tuggerah. They will showcase the clothing ranges of a host of recently added men's stores at the kilometre-long shopping complex.

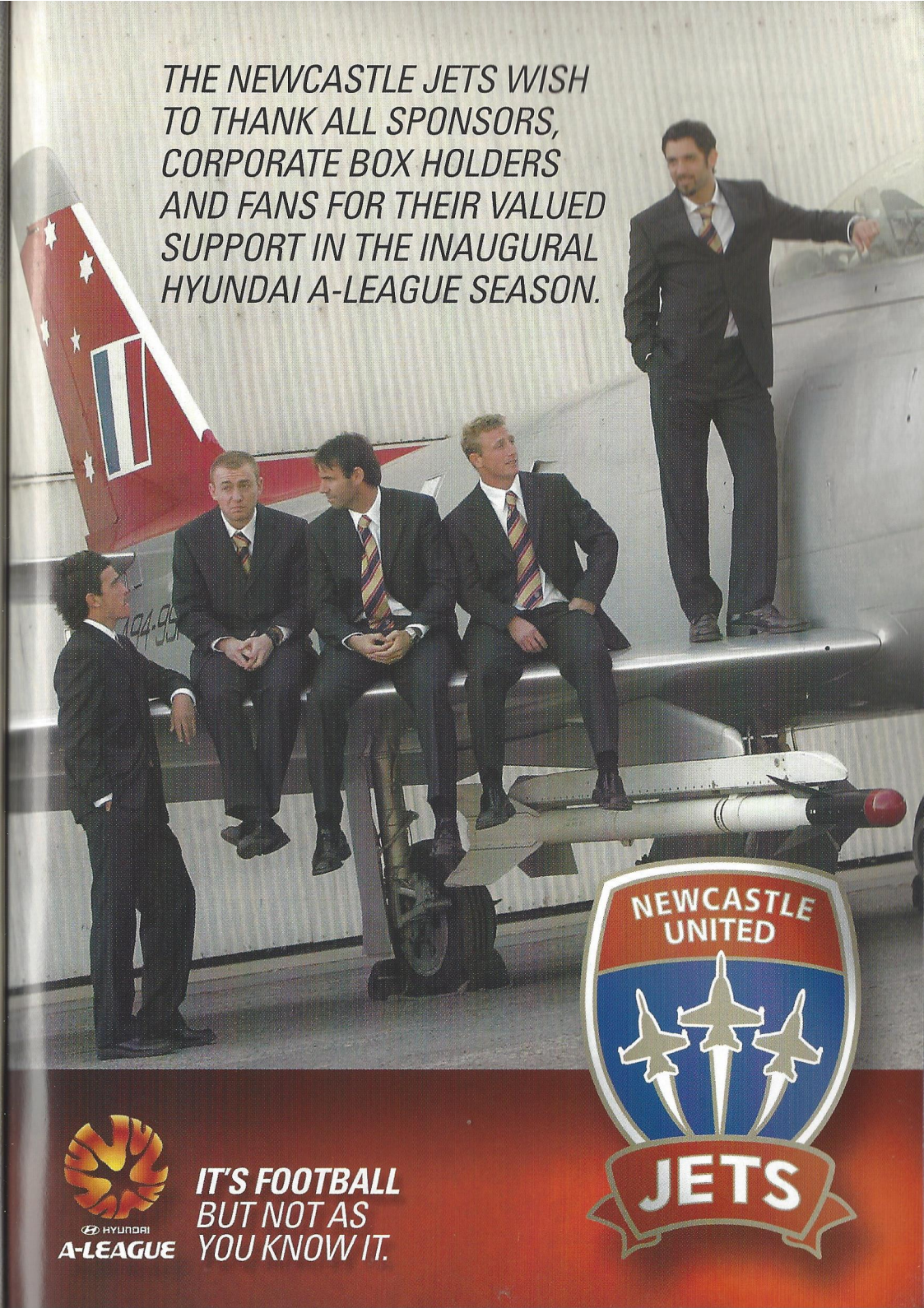
The Mariners first home match of the Hyundai A-League is on Fathers Day - Sunday, September 4, when they host local rivals the Newcastle United Jets for the second time in their short history.

Melbourne Victory

Get to know all the Melbourne Victory players every Wednesday afternoon at 2.30pm on SEN 1116 AM with Bruce Eva. Half-an-hour every week dedicated to your favourite Hyundai A-League team, featuring reviews, previews and talkback. The Melbourne Victory half-hour on SEN. Every Wednesday at 2.30pm.

The Victory gear up for the season's start.

THE NEWCASTLE JETS WISH TO THANK ALL SPONSORS, CORPORATE BOX HOLDERS AND FANS FOR THEIR VALUED SUPPORT IN THE INAUGURAL HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE SEASON.



NEWCASTLE UNITED JETS

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Adelaide United players and models show off the team's uniform.

Melbourne Victory merchandise is now available. Kit yourself out in the authentic playing gear, or grab a beanie or scarf to show your support for the club. Call 1300 783 014 for details about the complete range of Melbourne Victory merchandise.

Newcastle Jets

Maximising your match-day experience

The main event at Energy Australia Stadium for the next six months features the Newcastle Jets against the seven opposing Hyundai A-League teams for season 2005/2006. Entertainment is a very important part of match day at Newcastle Jets home games. The aim is to maximise the event experience and give fans reasons to return again and again.

As part of the pre-match entertainment, a super 7s tournament will feature at every Jets home game. Local, live and entertaining, the seven-a-side tourney includes the top eight teams from the local NBN State League competing for a total of $5000 in prizemoney. The fast and furious modified-rule game includes each team not fielding goalkeepers, therefore fans are sure to see many goals in the back of the net.

Shoot-for-goal competition

Tonight's half-time entertainment features the exciting shoot-for-goal competition proudly sponsored by Athans Travel and Travelscene. Fans will have the opportunity to win a trip to the FIFA World Cup Finals in Germany 2006. At each home game at Energy Australia Stadium we will select four people from each part of the ground to participate in the competition. The winning participants will win return airfares plus accommodation and travel with the Jets to an away game. Other participants will collect a double pass to the next Jets home game.

Perth Glory

Perth Glory's eighth annual yearbook is now available for collection to all members. The yearbook was included in all membership packages for this season and the glossy 80-page publication can be collected at the curtain-raiser against Central Coast Mariners. Yearbooks can be collected at the match day office or during normal working hours thereafter.

A refreshing change for the new season is the introduction of a Members Marquee where all members can relax and enjoy a full-strength beer at the bar. Members will be able to access

the Marquee, located in the south-east corner of the stadium from gates opening. The Glory Lounge will also be open to all members after the match.

Glory memberships have been selling strongly but there are still plenty of great seats available. If you have not yet bought your membership call the club on (08) 9492 6000.

Queensland Roar
Coaching clinics

Come along and meet the players from the Roar.
Dates: Monday, September 12, 2005 - Friday, September 16, 2005
Times: 9am to 12 noon
Ages: 6-12 years (boys and girls)
Cost: $110.00 per person (including GST)
Each player will receive:
* Qld Roar T-shirt, Cap, Water Bottle & Back-pack
* Qld Roar Mini Ball & Poster
* Child's Pass to Qld Roar v Sydney FC game (23/9/05)
* 5 x 3 hour Coaching Sessions
Bring: Shin pads, boots, ball, hat, sunscreen, water and morning tea.

Venues:
Qld Lions Soccer Club
Luxury Paints Stadium
133 Pine Road, Richlands
(UBD Ref. 217 R6)
Phone: (07) 3712 3309

Rochedale Rovers Soccer Club
Underwood Park
Underwood Road, Rochedale
(UBD Ref. 222 P9)
Phone: (07) 3841 2192

Gold Coast Knights Soccer Club
Croatian Sports Centre
Broadbeach-Nerang Rd, Carrara
(UBD Ref. Gold Coast 37 R6)
Phone: (07) 5596 0935

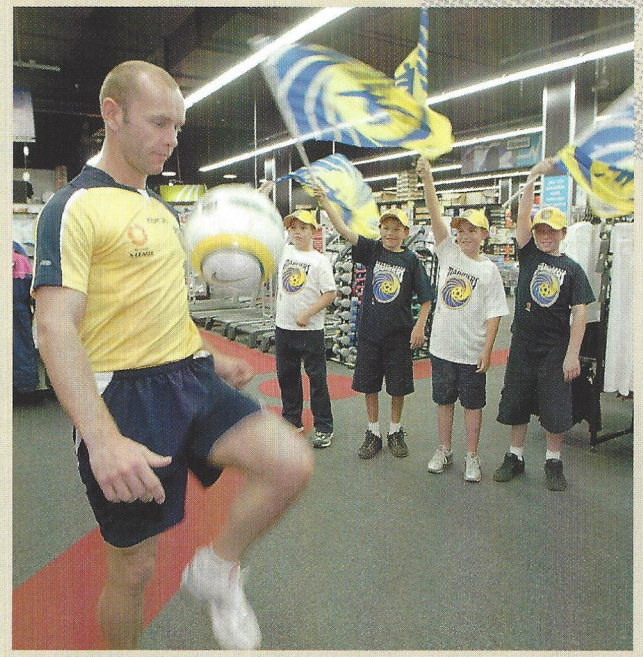
Narangba Soccer Club
Harris Avenue, Narangba
(UBD Ref. 67 P20)
Phone: (07) 3886 9032

Enquiries - please phone Kathy Morcus (07) 3712 3309

Sydney FC

Sydney FC is delighted with the response it has received from the Sydney sporting public in relation to memberships with over 2000 fans taking advantage of the membership and season ticket packages. Sydney FC is offering different tiers of membership and season tickets to ensure every football fan is able to feel a part of the Sydney FC experience. There are great benefits like members-only events, discounts on merchandise, Health-e membership and first access to Socceroo match tickets as part of the FFA family.

It's not too late to be a part of Sydney FC by joining the club. Contact Sydney FC on (02) 9387 4233 or visit the website at www.sydneyfc.com. Sydney FC's next home match is against the Central Coast Mariners at Aussie Stadium on Friday September 16 at 8.00pm.



Central Coast's Wayne O'Sullivan with fans (L-R) Hayden Watt, Bradley Thoseby, Daniel Kerr and Shaun Imberger.

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England Premier League

Saturday, August 20
Man United 1 Aston Villa 0
Liverpool 1 Sunderland 0
Tottenham 2 Middlesbrough 0
Newcastle 0 West Ham 0
Birmingham 1 Man City 2
Blackburn 2 Fulham 1
Charlton 1 Wigan 0
WBA 2 Portsmouth 1

Sunday, August 21
Chelsea 1 Arsenal 0
Bolton 0 Everton 1

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Tottenham	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
2	Charlton	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
3	Manchester United	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
4	Chelsea	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
5	West Ham	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
6	Manchester City	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
7	W.B.A.	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
8	Liverpool	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
9	Arsenal	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
10	Blackburn	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
11	Everton	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
12	Aston Villa	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
13	Bolton	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
14	Birmingham	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
15	Fulham	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
16	Middlesbrough	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
17	Newcastle	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
18	Wigan	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
19	Portsmouth	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
20	Sunderland	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Scotland Premier League

Saturday, August 20
Rangers 3 Celtic 1
Falkirk 0 Hibernian 2
Hearts 2 Aberdeen 0
Inverness CT 2 Kilmarnock 2
Livingston 1 Dunfermline 1
Motherwell 4 Dundee Utd 5

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Hearts	4	4	0	0	13	2	12
2	Rangers	4	3	0	1	9	4	9
3	Celtic	4	2	1	1	10	8	7
4	Kilmarnock	4	2	1	1	10	8	7
5	Inverness C.T.	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
6	Hibernian	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
7	Aberdeen	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
8	Motherwell	4	1	1	2	10	13	4
9	Dundee Utd.	4	1	1	2	6	10	4
10	Falkirk	4	1	0	3	3	7	3
11	Dunfermline	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
12	Livingston	3	0	0	3	0	8	0

France Ligue 1

Saturday, August 20
Ajaccio 0 Le Mans 0
Metz 0 Racing Strasbourg 0
Sochaux 0 Lille 0
Girondins Bordeaux 1 Monaco 0
Nice 1 Nantes 1
Olympique Lyon 1 AS Nancy 0
Racing Lens 7 Auxerre 0

Sunday, August 21
ES Troyes AC 1 Paris St Germain 1
Toulouse 1 St Etienne 1
Stade Rennes 3 Olympique Marseille 2

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	Lyon	4	3	1	0	5	2	3	10
2	Lens	4	3	0	1	11	3	8	9
3	Paris Saint-Germain	3	3	0	0	7	1	6	9
4	Bordeaux	4	3	0	1	4	1	3	9
5	Nantes	4	2	1	1	6	3	3	7
6	Auxerre	4	2	1	1	3	7	-4	7
7	Ajaccio	4	1	3	0	5	3	2	6
8	Monaco	4	2	0	2	3	4	-1	6
9	Le Mans	4	1	2	1	5	2	3	5
10	Saint-Etienne	3	1	2	0	2	0	2	5
11	Nice	4	1	2	1	5	4	1	5
12	Troyes	3	1	2	0	3	2	1	5
13	Lille	4	1	2	1	5	5	0	5
14	Sochaux	4	1	1	2	2	3	-1	4
15	Toulouse	3	1	0	2	1	4	-3	3
16	Rennes	4	1	0	3	3	10	-7	3
17	Strasbourg	4	0	2	2	1	3	-2	2
18	Metz	4	0	2	2	1	6	-5	2
19	Marseilles	4	0	1	3	3	8	-5	1
20	Nancy-Lorraine	4	0	0	4	1	5	-4	0

Germany Bundesliga

Saturday, August 20
Cup weekend - no league games.

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Bayern Munich	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
2	Werder Bremen	2	2	0	0	7	2	6
3	Hamburg	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
4	Cologne	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
5	Schalke	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
6	Hertha Berlin	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
7	Kaiserslautern	2	1	0	1	6	5	3
8	Bayer Leverkusen	2	1	0	1	6	6	3
9	Hanover	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
10	Wolfsburg	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
11	B.Dortmund	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
12	Stuttgart	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
13	Duisburg	2	0	1	1	4	6	1
14	B.M'gladbach	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
15	Nurnberg	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
16	Mainz 05 FSV	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
17	A.Bielefeld	2	0	0	2	2	7	0
18	E.Frankfurt	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

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Argentina Primera División

Friday, August 19
Argentinos Juniors 2 Estudiantes 1

Saturday, August 20
Gimnasia-La Plata 0 **Velez Sarsfield 6**
Racing Club 3 Arsenal 1
Tiro Federal 0 **Banfield 1**

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	Velez Sarsfield	38	21	10	7	53	30	23	73
2	Estudiantes	38	15	16	7	50	37	13	61
3	Rosario Central	38	16	13	9	46	39	7	61
4	Newells Old Boys	38	15	15	8	44	32	12	60
5	River Plate	38	17	9	12	59	48	11	60
6	Banfield	38	16	11	11	49	38	11	59
7	Racing Club	38	17	7	14	48	39	9	58
8	Lanus	38	13	15	10	61	53	8	54
9	Arsenal(SAm)	38	13	15	10	44	38	6	54
10	Gimna Plata	38	15	9	14	41	48	-7	54
11	Colon	38	13	14	11	54	45	9	53
12	San Lorenzo	38	14	10	14	52	51	1	52
13	Independiente	38	12	13	13	52	52	0	49
14	Boca Juniors	38	13	9	16	48	46	2	48
15	Quilmes	38	11	11	16	30	41	-11	44
16	Argentinos Jrs.	38	11	10	17	45	48	-3	43
17	Olimpo	38	11	10	17	39	51	-12	43
18	Instituto	38	10	12	16	48	60	-12	42
19	Almagro	38	8	14	16	40	62	-22	38

Brazil Campeonato Brasileiro

Saturday, August 20
Atletico Mineiro 2 Juventude 1
Atletico Paranaense 4 Sao Paulo 2
Sao Caetano 0 **Cruzeiro 1**

Pos	Team	Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Corinthians	20	12	2	6	44	38	38
2	Goias	20	11	3	6	30	22	36
3	Parana	20	10	6	4	31	19	36
4	Cruzeiro	21	10	6	5	41	30	36
5	Fluminense	20	10	4	6	30	23	34
6	Ponte Preta	20	10	3	7	33	30	33
7	Santos	20	9	6	5	38	28	33
8	Botafogo	20	10	2	8	30	30	32
9	Sao Caetano	21	9	5	7	29	27	32
10	Palmeiras	20	9	4	7	36	30	31
11	Internacional	20	9	4	7	31	28	31
12	Coritiba	20	8	5	7	29	28	29
13	Juventude	21	8	5	8	32	34	29
14	Fortaleza	20	8	3	9	24	28	27
15	Atletico Paranaense	21	7	4	10	33	34	25
16	Vasco da Gama	20	7	3	10	35	46	24
17	Brasiliense	20	5	7	8	24	31	22
18	Sao Paulo	21	5	6	10	30	35	21
19	Flamengo	20	5	5	10	22	30	20
20	Figueirense	20	4	7	9	24	33	19
21	Atletico Mineiro	21	4	4	13	28	35	16
22	Paysandu	20	4	4	12	26	41	16

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NAUM SEKULOVSKI

CLUB: Perth Glory **POSITION:** Midfielder

Melbourne-bred Naum is making a name with his attacking forays for the Glory. Total Football's editor **Finn Bradshaw** caught up with him to find out how he's coping on the west coast.

Got used to life in Perth by now?
Yeah, it's a bit low-key, but I guess that's good for my football.

What do you miss most about Melbourne?
My family.

Do they send over care packages?
Yeah, they do. Once they sent over a pig.

A whole pig? A live one?
No – a pig on the spit, with a whole lot of *ajear* – a Macedonian pepper spread.

Who's your best mate in the team?
I've got my two boys - Billy Celeski and Milan Jovanic. It's basically me and my fiancee looking after them – it's like having two kids.

Who's the biggest prankster in the team?
Oh, it's probably me. I don't do anything with the boys, more stuff with the club. I ring into the Glory Zone (the Glory's community football program) and say I'm some Greek bloke wanting to run a clinic. I usually start laughing and give myself away.

Sum up (Glory coach) Steve McMahon in one word
Power.

Who was your hero growing up?
My father. He was a typical European immigrant – he worked very hard just to give us a life.

What music do you listen to?
All sorts – house, Macedonian.

What song have you been playing the most?
A Macedonian song - *Barb bijaz.*

If you were in a band which one would it be?
A Macedonian band. And I would be playing the *tara buka* – which is a little drum.

What other sports do you follow?
Cricket. I like Adam Gilchrist – he just smashes it everywhere.

You're in the World Cup final. It goes to penalities. You can choose anyone in the world, including yourself, to take the deciding penalty. Who do you choose?
Myself.

Of course. Thanks for the chat, Naum.
Cheers, Finn.

1994 was a very dark year.
1998 got darker.
2002 was pitch black.

Finally, there's light at the end of the tunnel.

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